シュトヘル

伊藤悠

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BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

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潜航

9

伊藤悠

BIG SPIRITS COMICS SPECIAL

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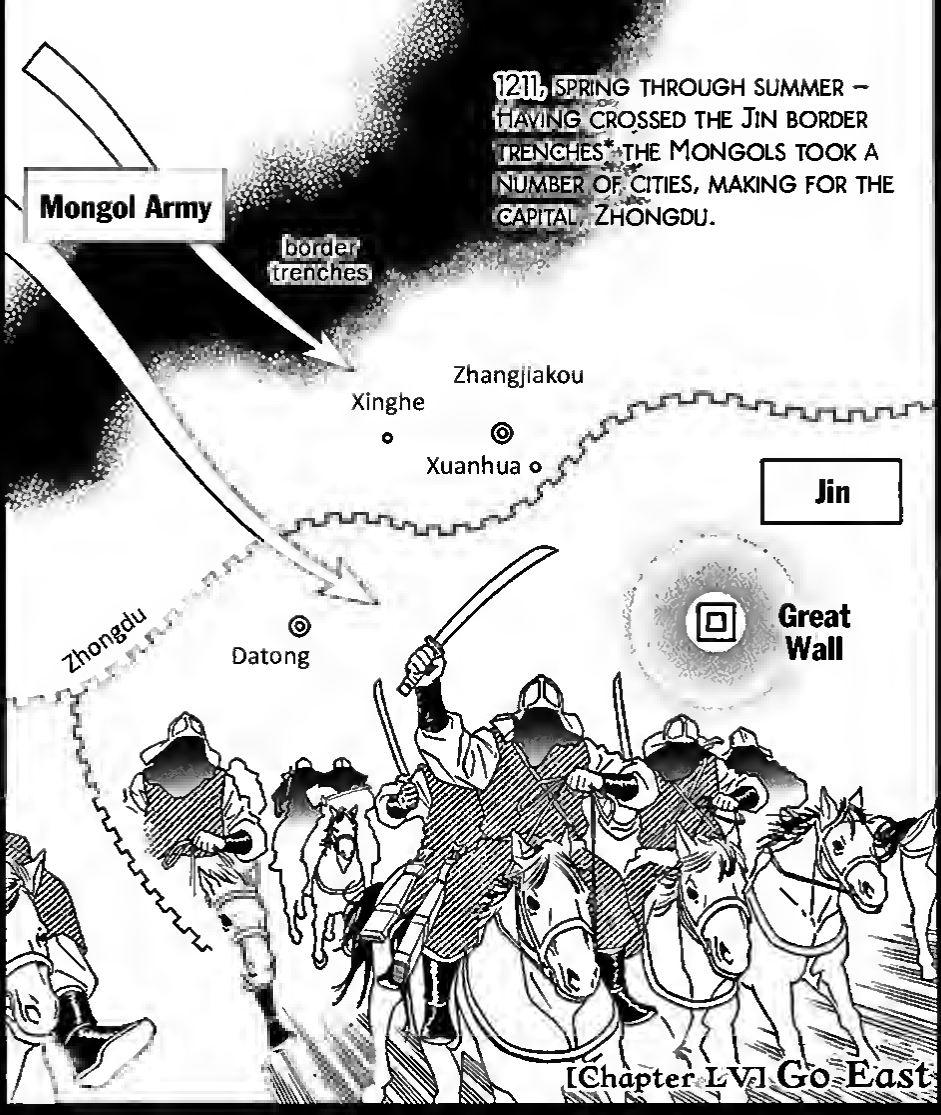
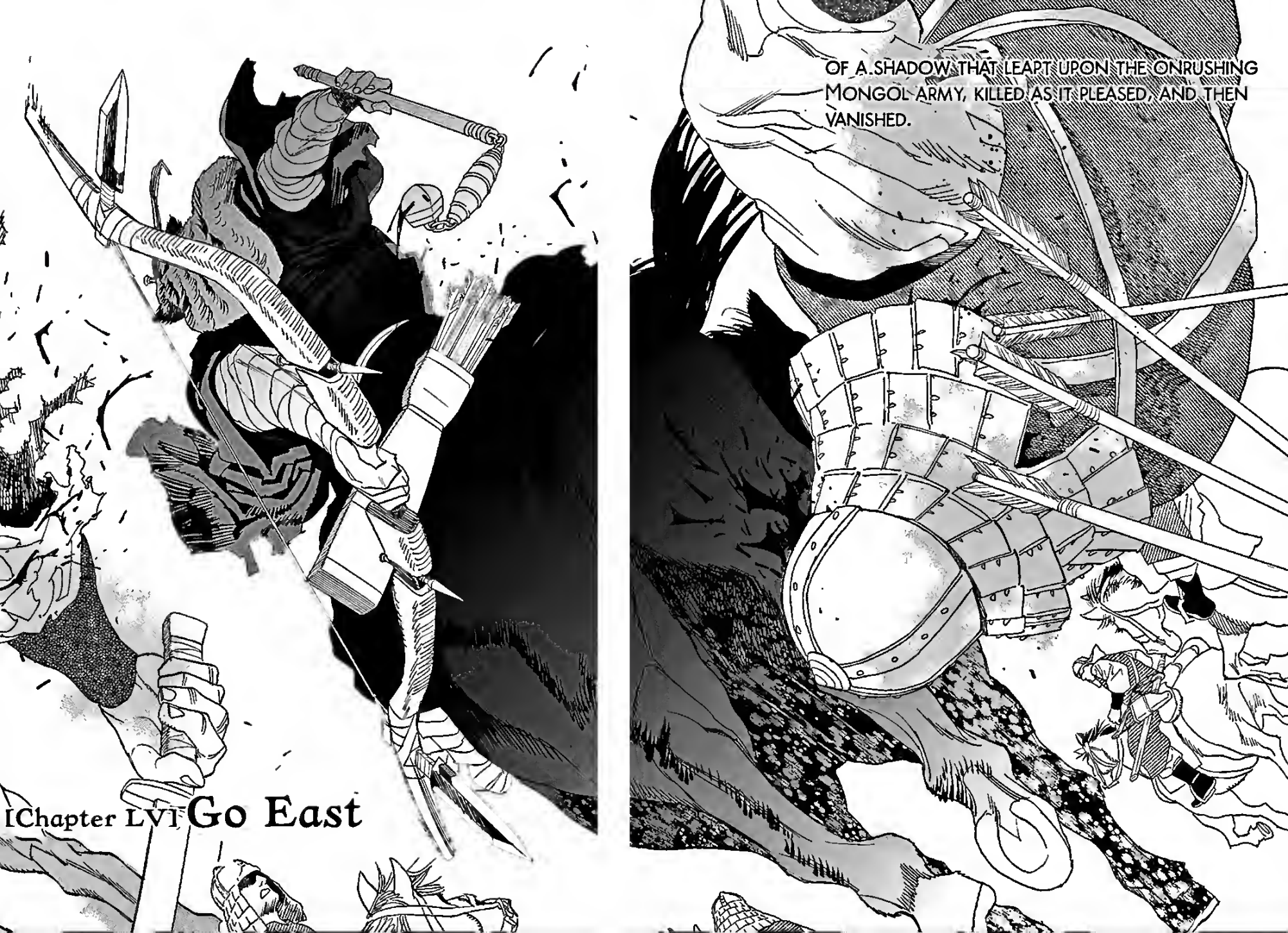
*THE WRITING ON THE COVER AND INSIDE FLAP READS "KARMA" IN TANGUT SCRIPT.

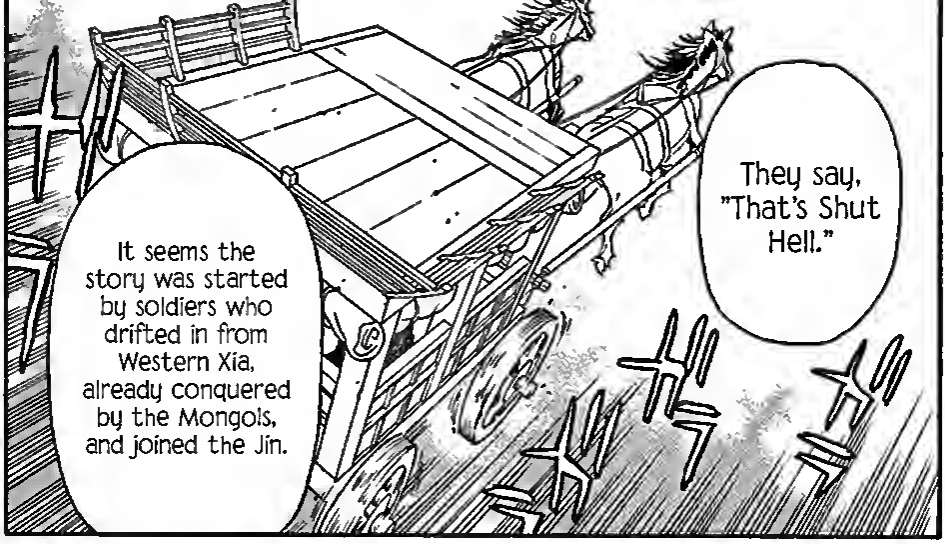


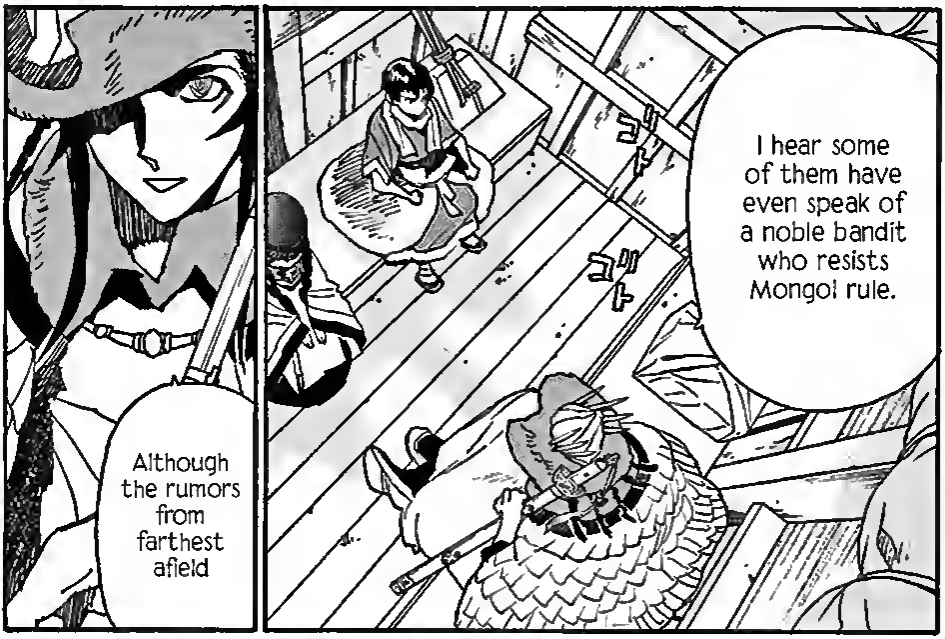
* Border trenches: Long fortifications comprised of trenches and earthen walls.



OF A SHADOW THAT LEAPT UPON THE ONRUSHING MONGOL ARMY, KILLED AS IT PLEASED, AND THEN VANISHED.

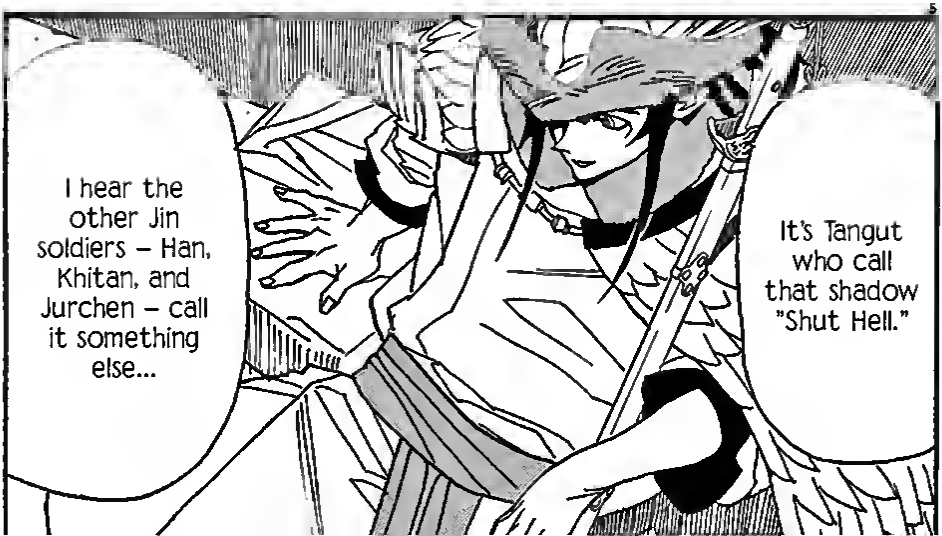
Chapter LVI Go East


It seems the story was started by soldiers who drifted in from Western Xia, already conquered by the Mongols, and joined the Jin.
They say, "That's Shut Hell."


Although the rumors from farthest afield
I hear some of them have even speak of a noble bandit who resists Mongol rule.

That's not Shut Hell.
have it that the shadow wipes out Jin soldiers as well, without distinction.

I guess not. After all, she was in Jingzhao with you.
They say this shadow is steadily advancing east, as if pursuing the main Mongol army.
Shut Hell no longer pursues the Mongol army to kill.


It's Tangut who call that shadow "Shut Hell."
I hear the other Jin soldiers – Han, Khitan, and Jurchen – call it something else...

"The Man-Eating Tiger."
6
7
Arrgh!
He's over-taking us...!
He...

A cliff ...!?

ハハハ

But the only one who leaves a mark like this is...
...A bloody ...?
11

Masses of dead Mongols!
12
... Sh-
Shut Hell!
"Shut Hell"...?
... heh.

Ha ha ha.
Fresh tiger tracks have appeared near Datang.

twang
twang
twang
I wonder if he's headed for Zhongdu... for Juyongguan...
Xuanhua
Juyongguan
Zhongdu
A Jin fortress, built like it's crawling over the mountains, that guards the capital of Zhongdu and the gates of the Great Wall.
If we can take it, Zhongdu will fall into Mongol hands.
Juyong-guan...
14
"I must have your head."
Tolui.
He's a man you ought to meet.
My brother and mastor is there.

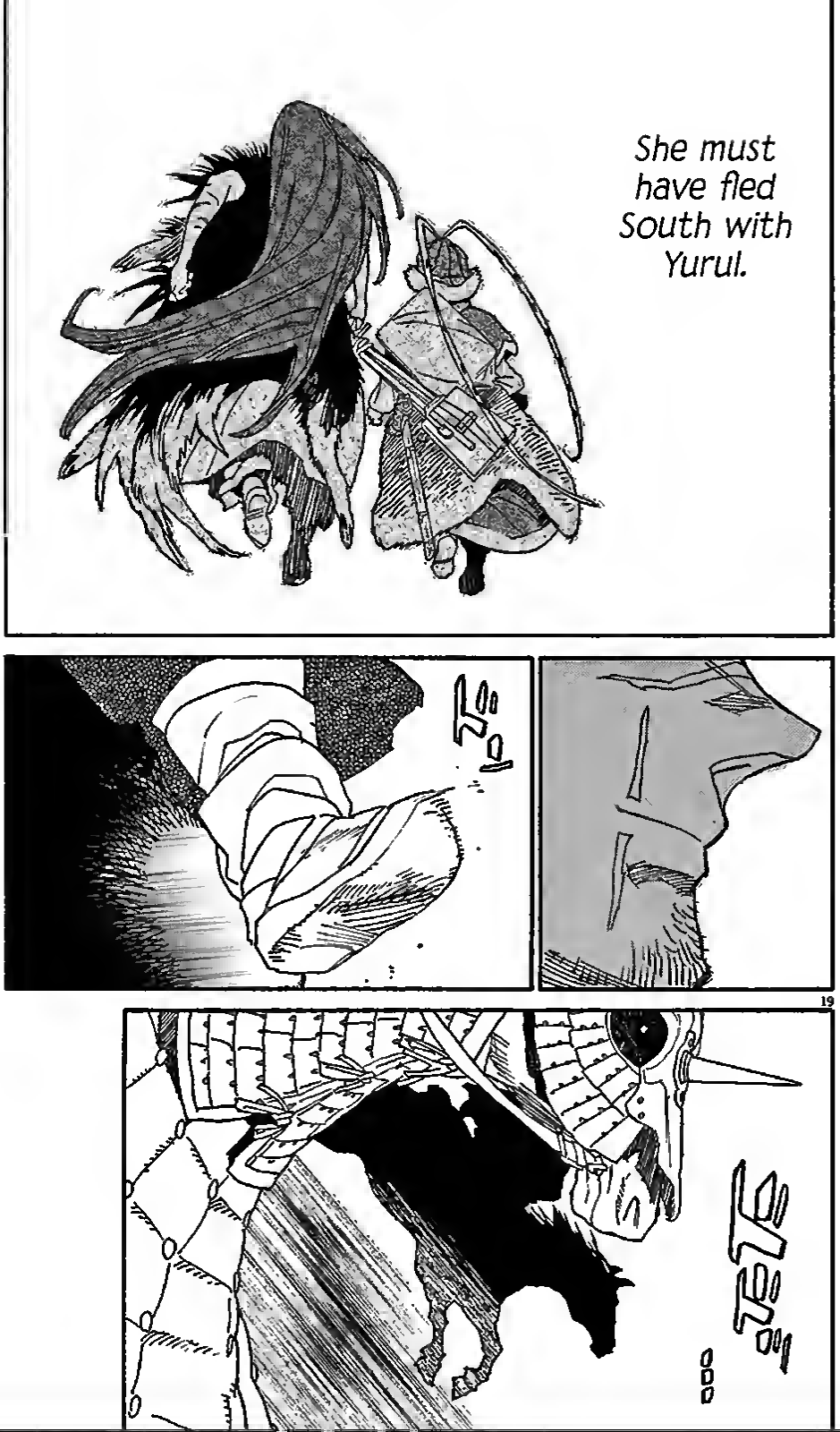
Do you no longer mean to pursue
"Then you'll have to stay alive while you chase me!"
my head, and the Voice of Jade?

Yurul.

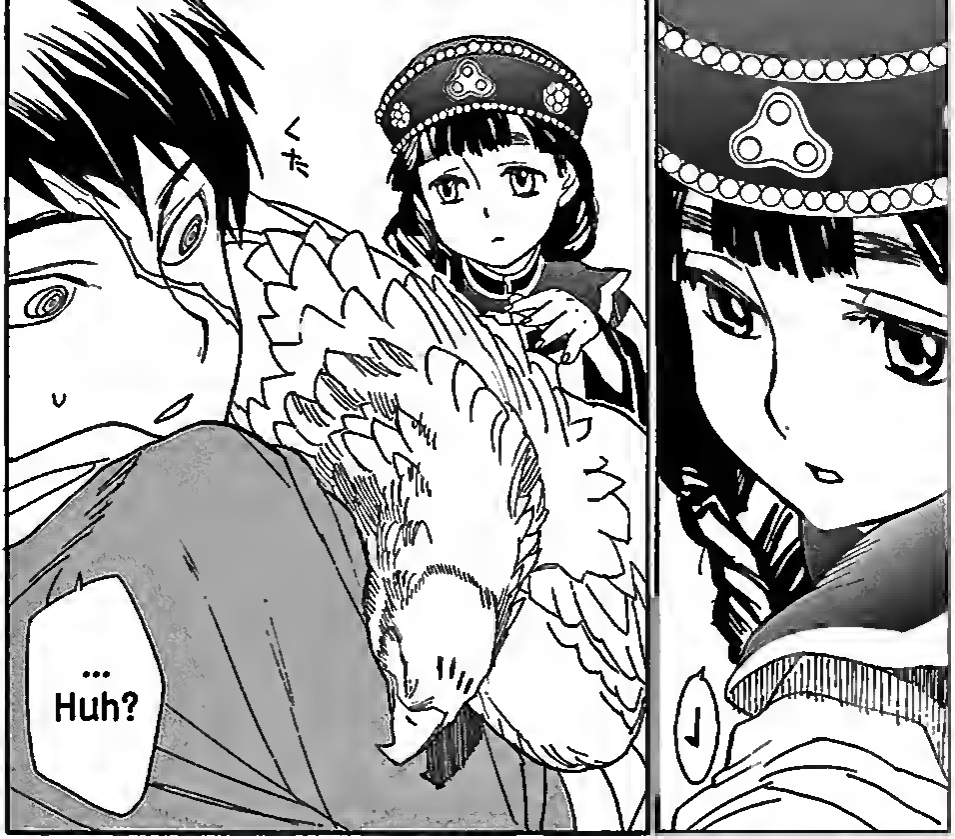
Broth... Harabal,
do you mean to die?

The tiger isn't your brother.
This will make a good opportunity to teach you that.

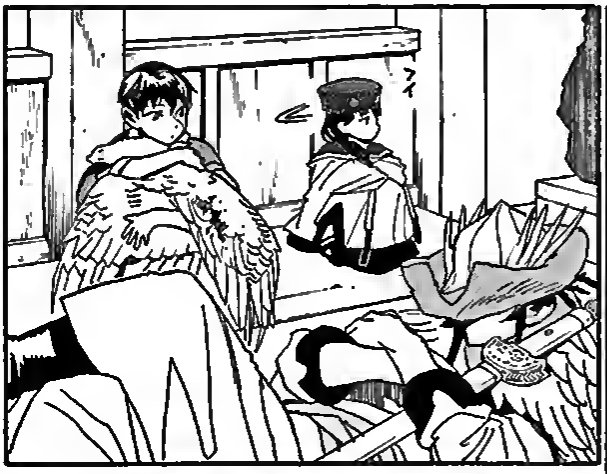
So this is Juyong-guan.
If that woman lives, perhaps the evil spirit left her then.
...Now that I've been bitten, they call me "Shut Hell."
Shut Hell—!

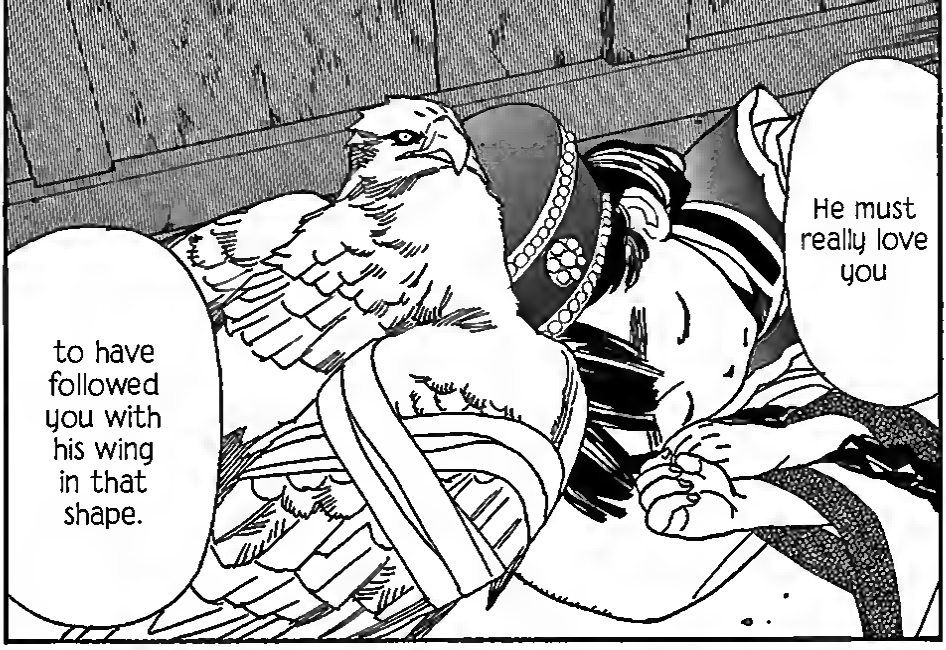

She must have fled South with Yurul.
ドン
19
ドドド

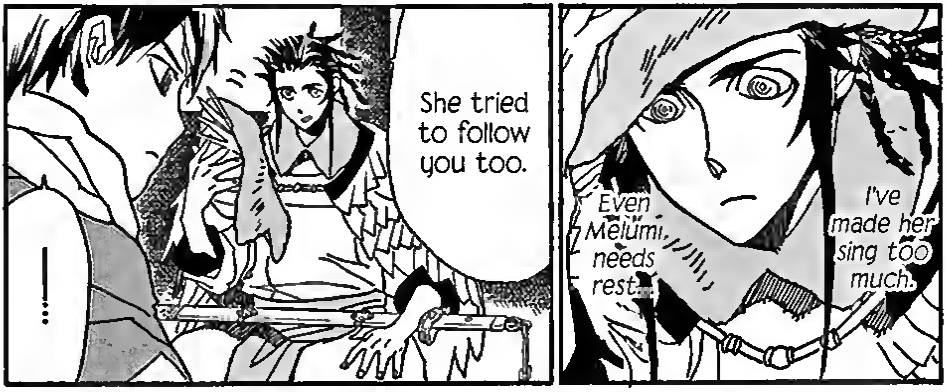
Yaral-
tu!
This wound... You must have gotten it when my pack was broken!
Pat
You mustn't panic!



21

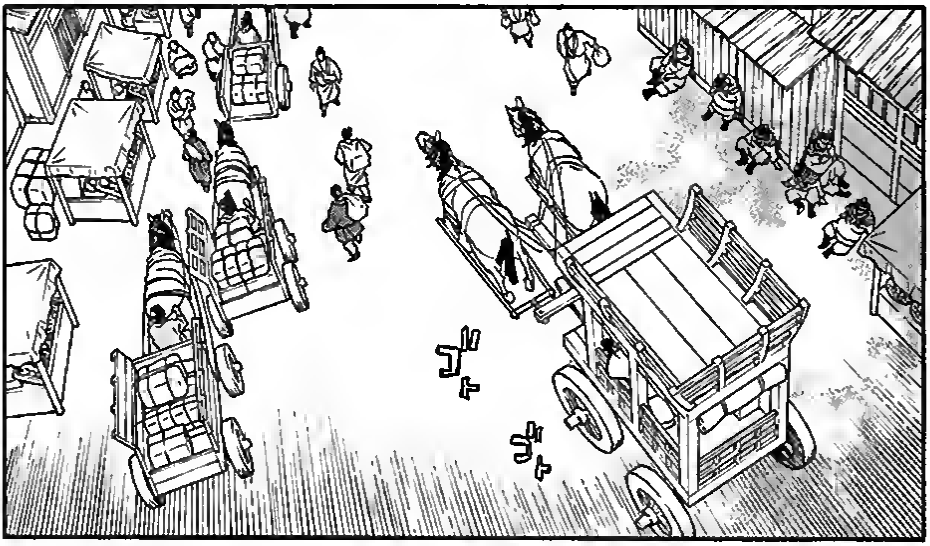


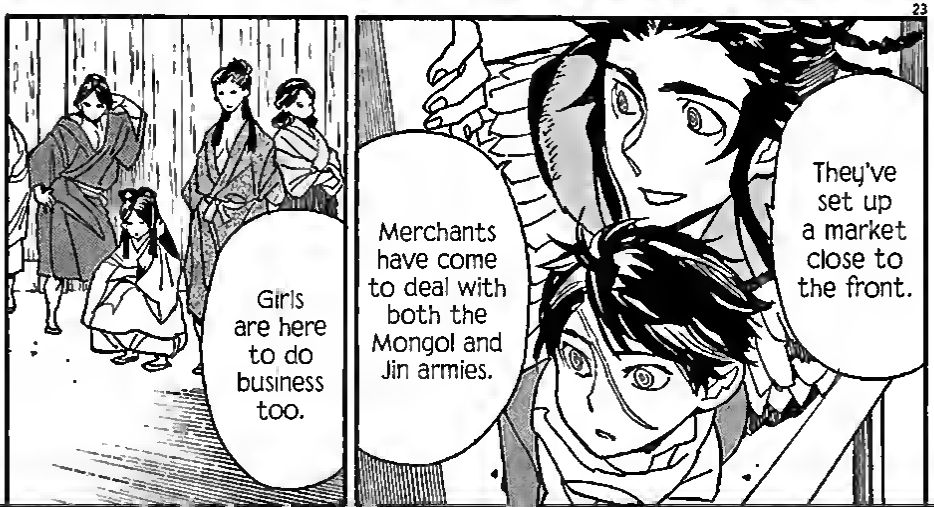

He must really love you
to have followed you with his wing in that shape.


She tried to follow you too.
!!!
Even Melumi needs rest.
I've made her sing too much.

Then I just have to take the Voice of Jade back from Nalan somehow.
...I see. so Shut Hell is safe.
she probably died there without even managing to stand.
She had a small wound, although it was bandaged.
But at the rate it was bleeding...

If I can't get it back before Zhongdu, I'll lose my chance...
Yurul! Look outside.

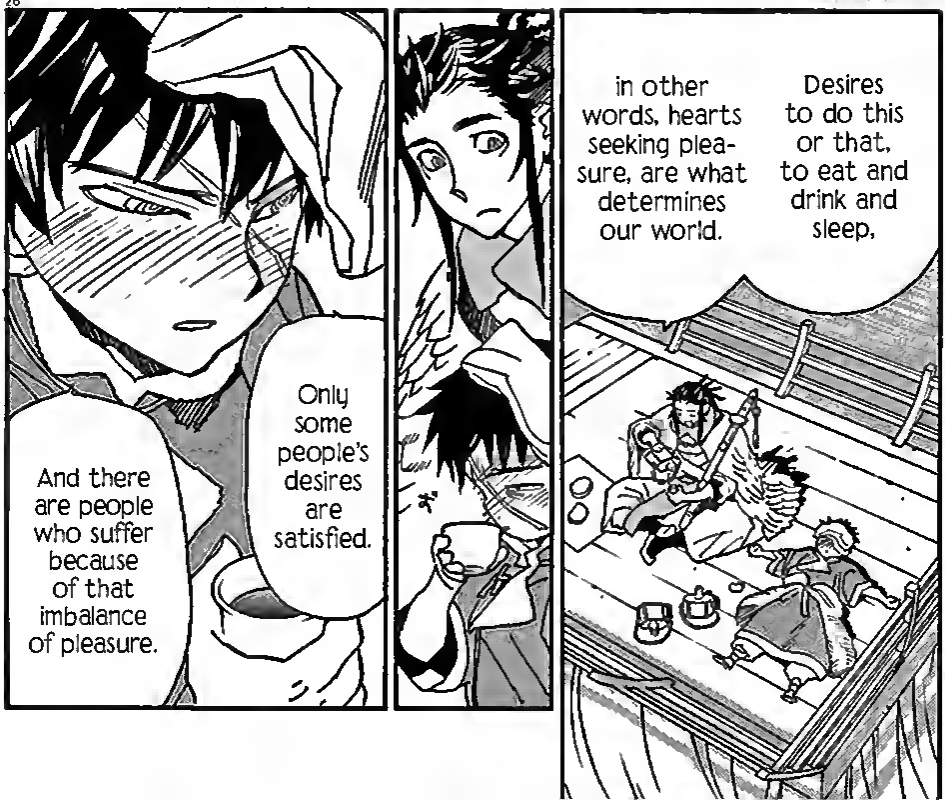



They've set up a market close to the front.
Merchants have come to deal with both the Mongol and Jin armies.
Girls are here to do business too.

Huh?
Was she really good?
!
I don't know.
24
What's that got to do with it?
Is anything wrong?
Whaaat!? You still haven't done it! Even though you're my brother?
What's with this guy?
Shut Hell doesn't see me that way...
I think ...
Proba-bly...
If you like her, you should have made your move.
I feel sorry for him.

There's nothing wrong with it.
Nothing wrong with drinking and eating and fooling around with girls.
Here.
You haven't had anything to drink in ages.
I don't fool around.
We've got snacks too!
Women! As cheap as you like!
My lord!
That's grape wine.
Good, isn't it?
So sour ...

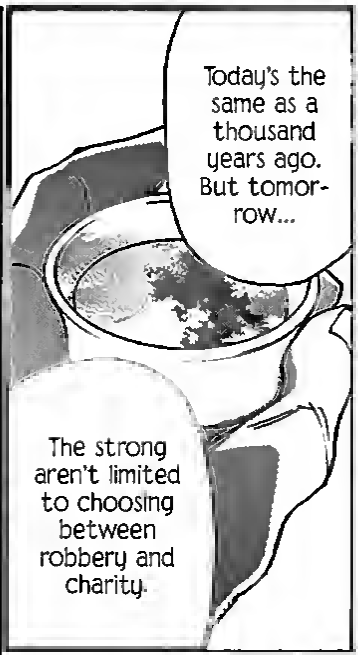
...The world's heart?
You'll never understand the world's heart if you don't know how to have fun.
Looking serious all the time like you do is no fun.


And there are people who suffer because of that imbalance of pleasure.
Only some people's desires are satisfied.
in other words, hearts seeking pleasure, are what determines our world.
Desires to do this or that, to eat and drink and sleep,

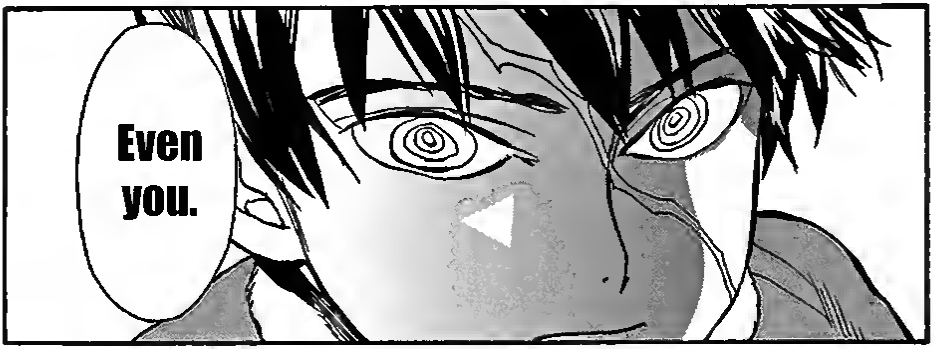
Is the cycle of the world's heart the same today as it was a thousand years ago, Nalan?
If the satisfied few pretend not to see them and decide things as they please,
the great mass of souls left behind will desire rebellion.
Aren't you worried I'll get mad and kill you?
You drunk?
But it doesn't sit right, you lumping me in with the Jin as "satisfied."
...Grape wine is dangerous.
Yup.
Ah.
Yes. Even we Mongols are turning the Han and Khitan, resentful of the power-hungry Jin Dynasty, towards rebellion.
That's right.
Don't touch me.
Still, well said. I guess all that scowling isn't for nothing.

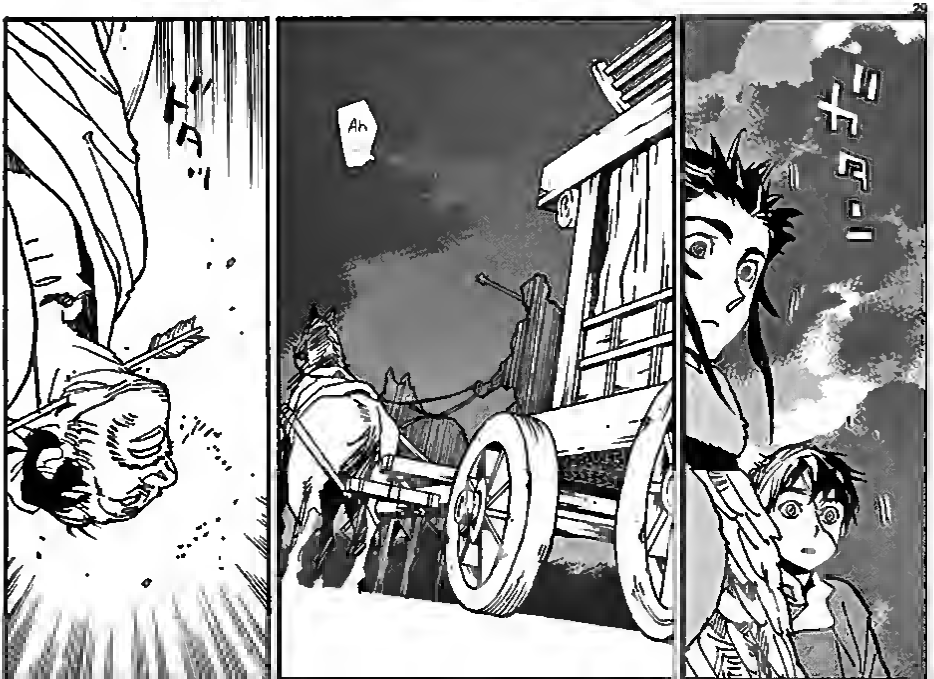
Pleasure that isn't one-sided— a balance of desires
just might be the key to stabilizing this world...

... Tomorrow...
If they administer a balance...


Today's the same as a thousand years ago. But tomorrow...
The strong aren't limited to choosing between robbery and charity.

It'll be a trade, and a fair one at that.
That's what the next generation of Mongols is going to do.

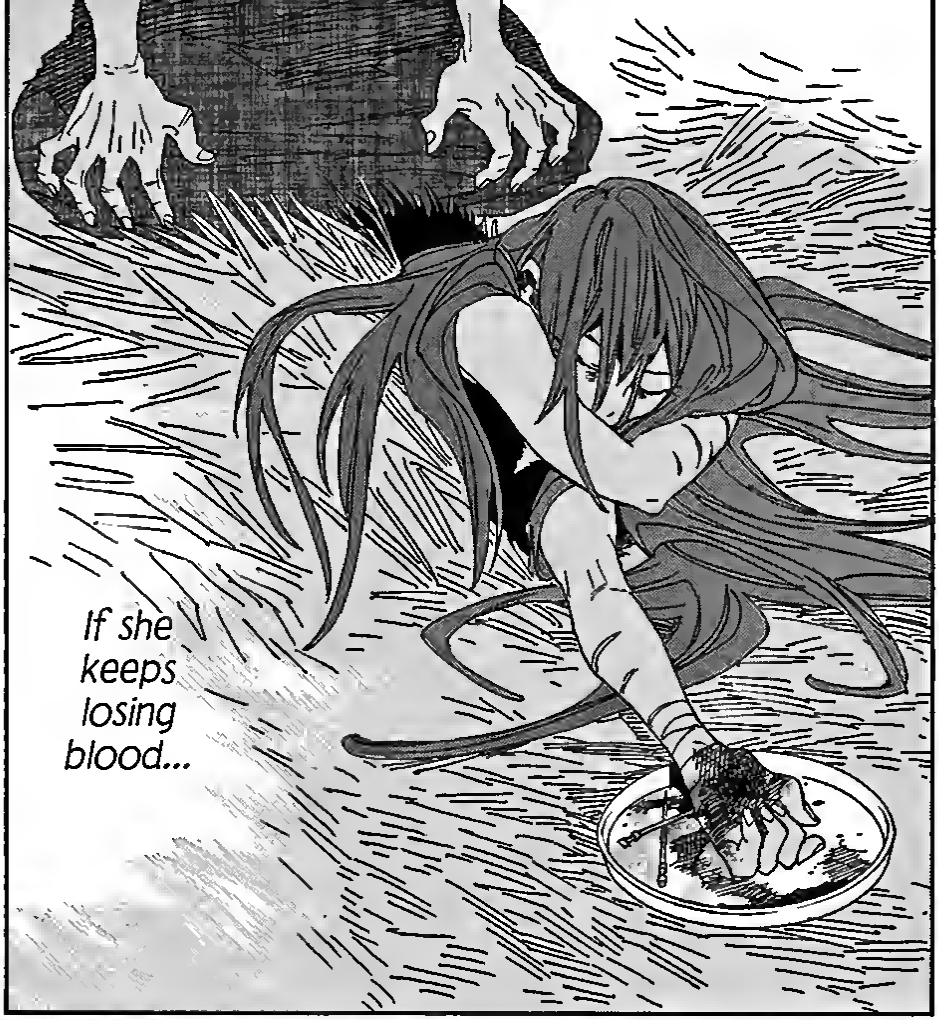

Even you.


ドカ
Ah
ヒュー

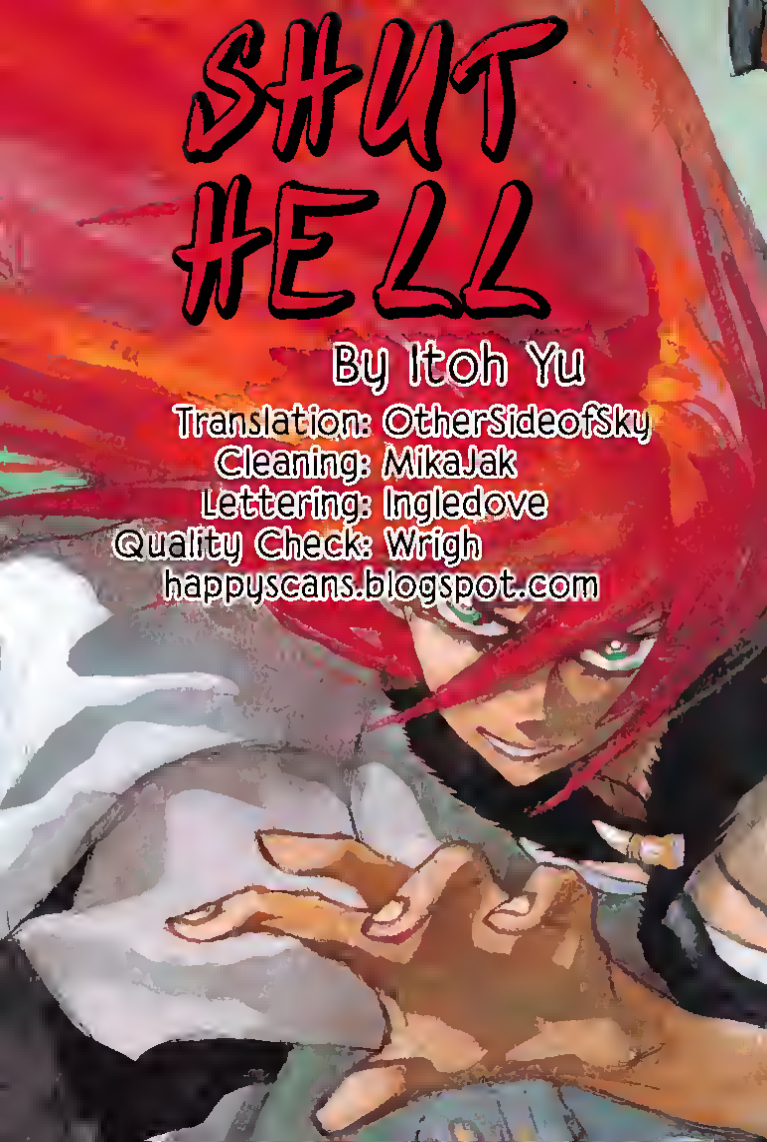
Your highness, prepare yourself!
!
Lend a hand.
Melumi's still resting.

This person ...
was trying to follow that kid...?

She's sleeping soundly now...
but she did well to run bleeding like that.
It's only a little, but it shows no sign of stopping.!
I've done all I can, but...

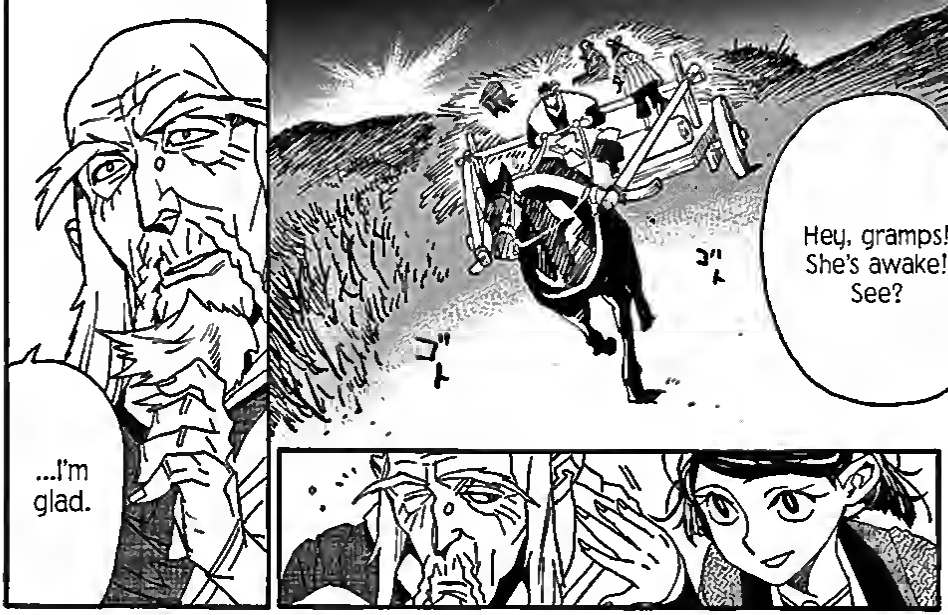

If she keeps losing blood...

Mm ...


SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check: Wrigh
happyscans.blogspot.com

[Chapter LVII]

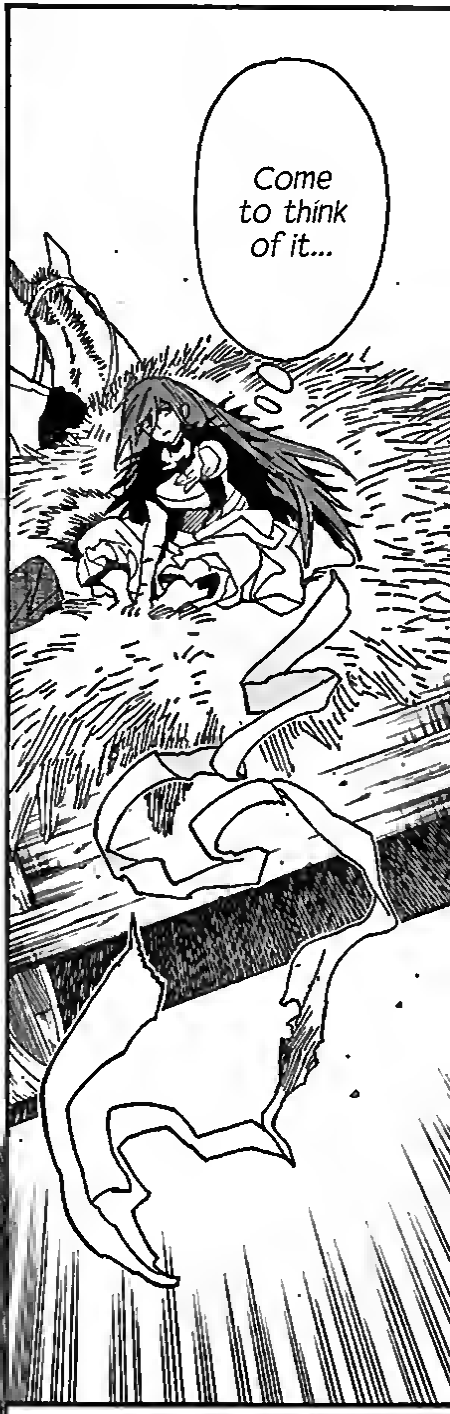
Brethren


Hey, gramps! She's awake! See?
...I'm glad.

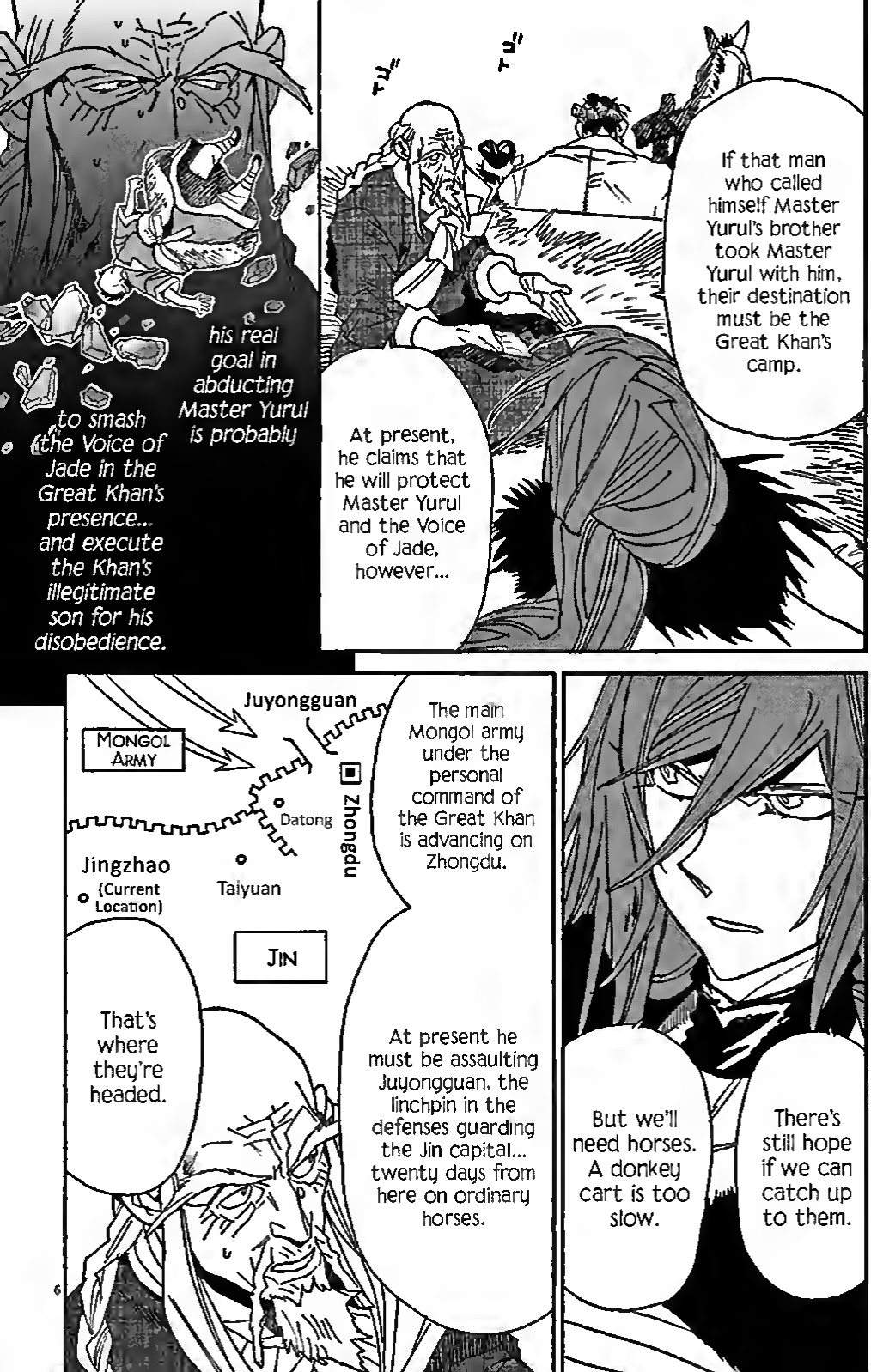
It looks like the bleeding has finally stopped.

I guess you're still in this body, then...
...Sudoh.

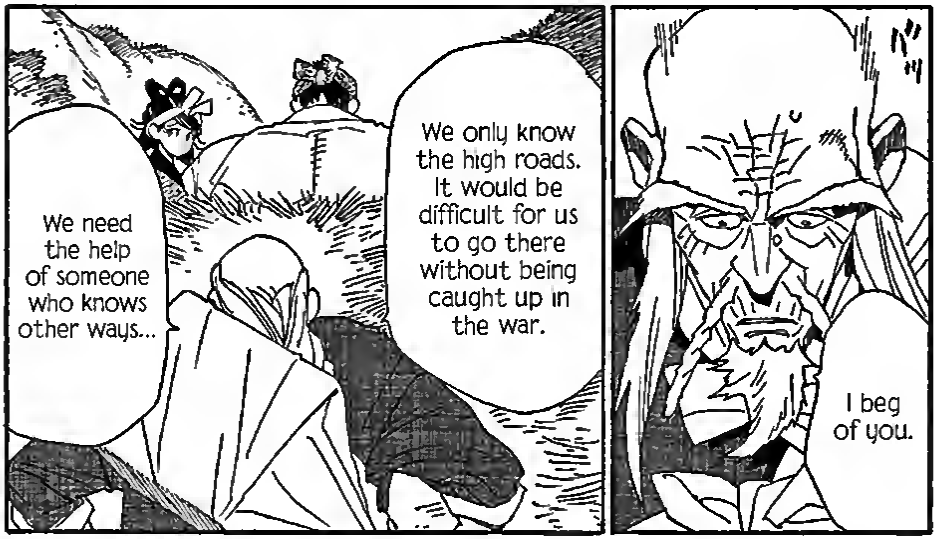
Sudoh, you came from someplace else...
You came back to life thanks to this storm...!
Yuru
Almost like you were born under a different sky...
Will I be tied to you, Sudoh?
What you saw wasn't a dream or mere sentiment.
It's a future that will come to pass.
and gave me life.
"I don't want to die."

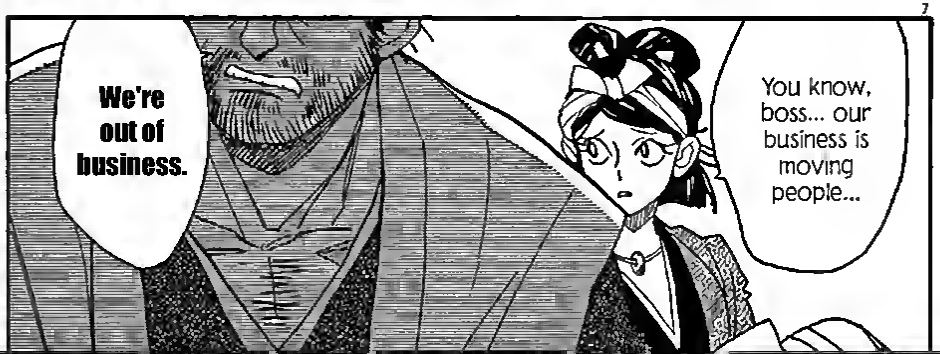

Come to think of it...

"The strength to run."
"Give me strength. The strength to stand."
"Sudoh...!"
Because I rejected death,
and brought you back...
So, you didn't go back to where you came from...?


his real goal in abducting Master Yurul is probably to smash the Voice of Jade in the Great Khan's presence... and execute the Khan's illegitimate son for his disobedience.
At present, he claims that he will protect Master Yurul and the Voice of Jade, however...
If that man who called himself Master Yurul's brother took Master Yurul with him, their destination must be the Great Khan's camp.
Juyongguan
Mongol Army
Datong
Zhongdu
Jingzhao
(Current Location)
Taiyuan
Jin
The main Mongol army under the personal command of the Great Khan is advancing on Zhongdu.
That's where they're headed.
At present he must be assaulting Juyongguan, the linchpin in the defenses guarding the Jin capital... twenty days from here on ordinary horses.
But we'll need horses. A donkey cart is too slow.
There's still hope if we can catch up to them.

Juyongguan? Zhongdu? Are you telling us to go the fighting is fiercest?
I know any number of hidden paths, but it would be like throwing our lives away.
Not a chance.
ピシッ

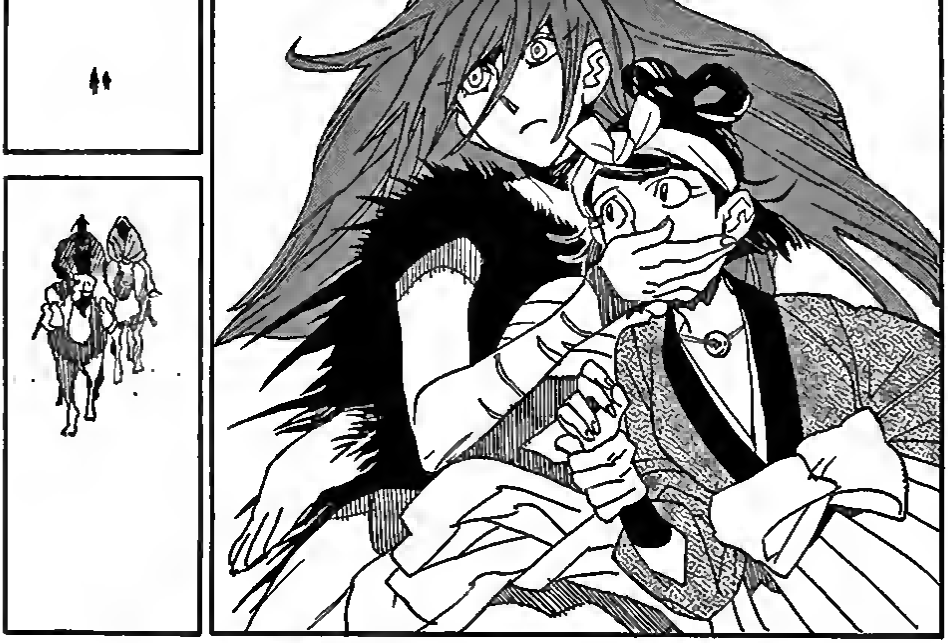

We only know the high roads. It would be difficult for us to go there without being caught up in the war.
We need the help of someone who knows other ways...
I beg of you.


We're out of business.
You know, boss... our business is moving people...

Whether they were caught or killed at the gates of Jingzhao, the family's scattered.
Xin, you must have seen it too.
It was because of them. We just got caught up in it.
.....
But that kid was kidnapped, right?

And we got paid up front, right?
There's one more of us who isn't here right now.
Paid by this old man... and that kid.

We even got paid for her–



If it isn't boss Wumu.
Well...

Friends of theirs?
You've sure gotten cuter since I last saw you, Xin.
...Li Wan...

Are you carrying runaways, boss?
It's rare to see them headed out this way, instead of south to Song...
I guess you make your living where the fighting is.
I'll bet you get by catching weakened, fleeing soldiers and selling them.
—That one there.

He looks like he's shaking...?

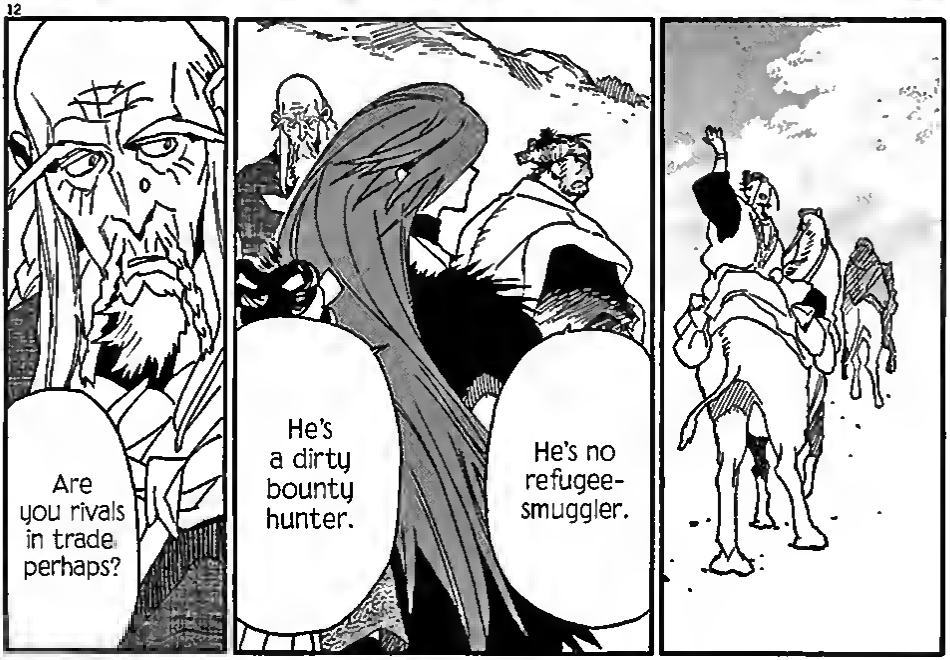
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter

11

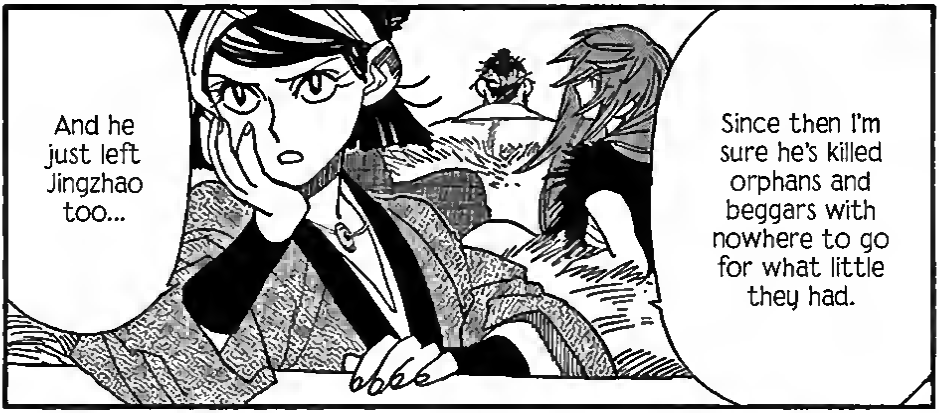
He's just sick.
I'm in the middle of transporting people too.

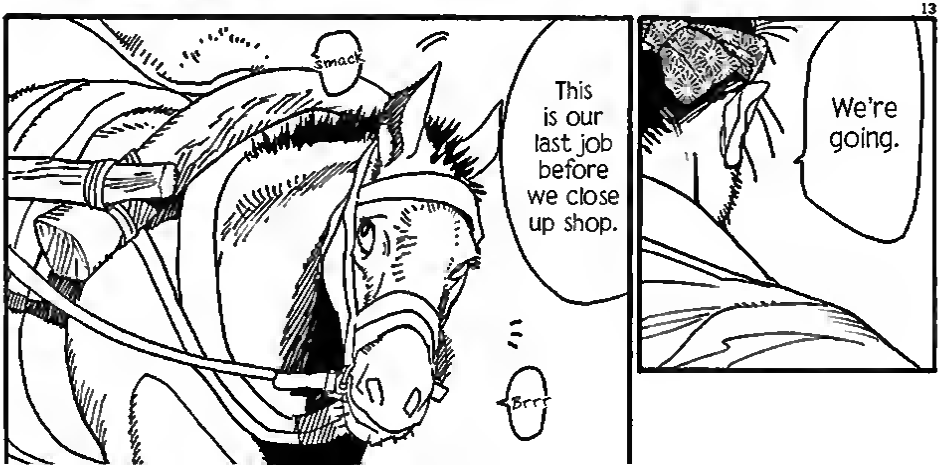
All of you take care now.
Well then, I'll be on my way, boss.

12


Are you rivals in trade perhaps?
He's a dirty bounty hunter.
He's no refugee-smuggler.

He turned in a guy who had just a bit of dirt in his past for a measly reward.
But he was a snitch and sold out his friends.
Li Wan used to work with us, smuggling people over the border.


And he just left Jingzhao too...
Since then I'm sure he's killed orphans and beggars with nowhere to go for what little they had.


Smack
This is our last job before we close up shop.
Brrr
We're going.

I'll deliver you to Juyongguan.
As fast as I can, and by roads the troops don't use.
If that bastard Li Wan can claim to be transporting people,
I ain't gonna quit halfway.
Then...?
Hey, Zess!
...Was that woman really the one?
shake
shake

Yeah...

16

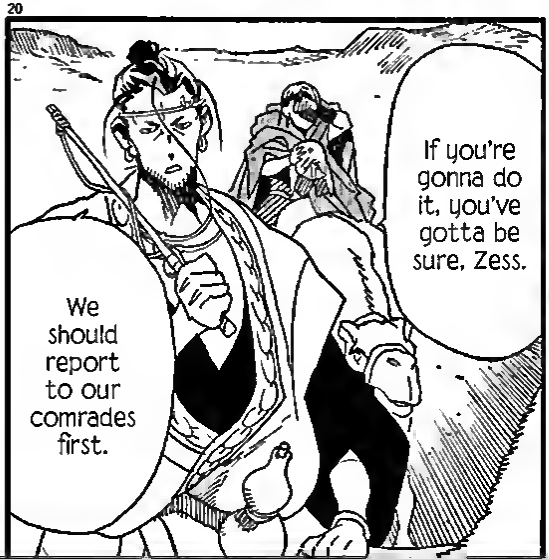
THUD
lub dub
lub dub
lub dub

lub
dub
lub
dub
lub
dub

It's her...
Shut Hell.

She was looking at you.
I'm glad.

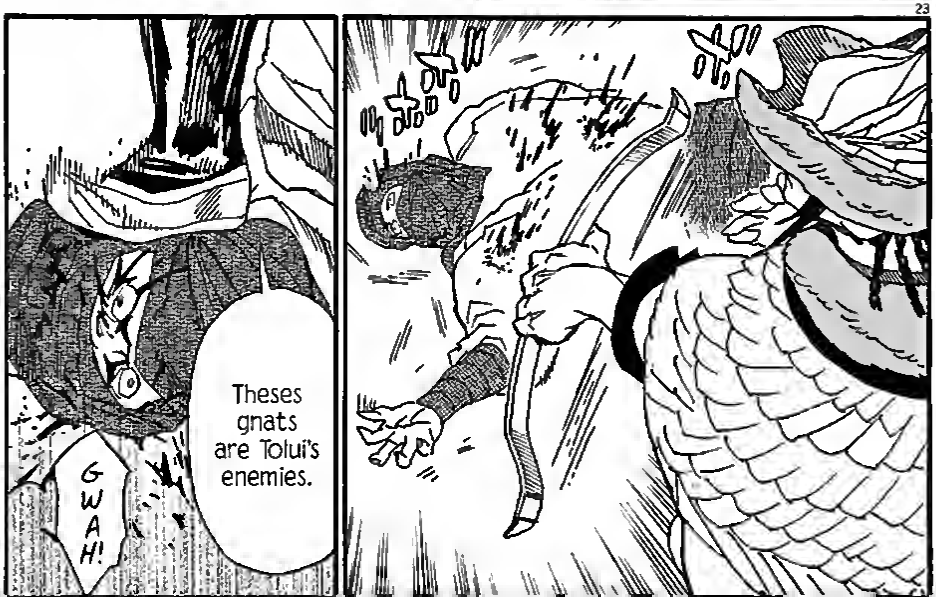
shake
quake
Damn it! I couldn't move a finger...

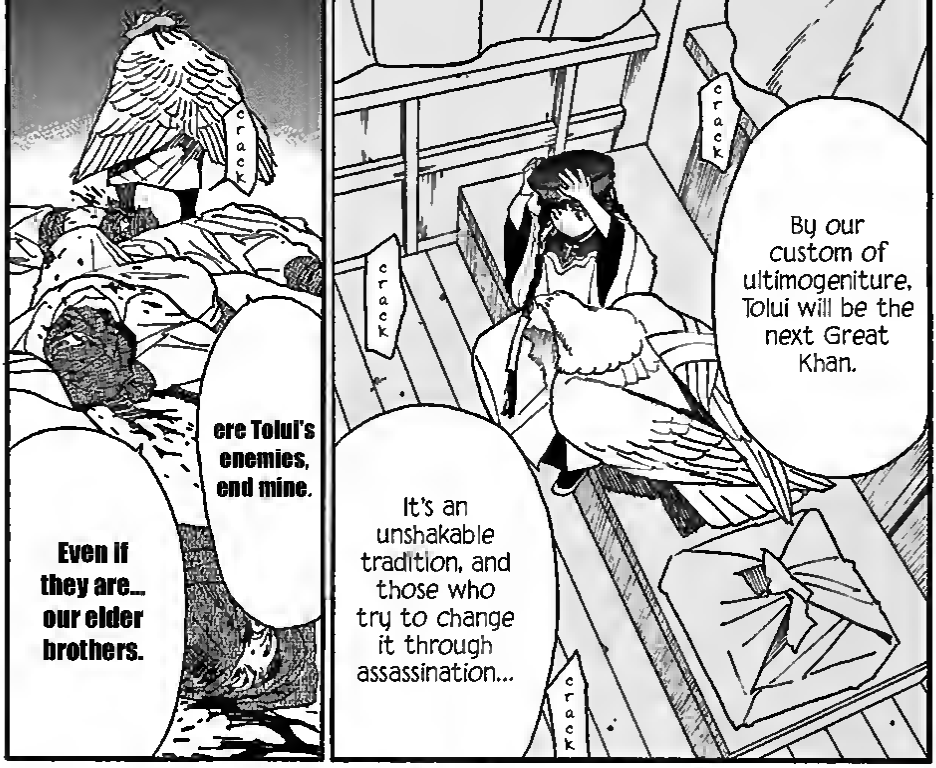

If you're gonna do it, you've gotta be sure, Zess.
We should report to our comrades first.

ドドド

huff
puff
Nalan...
You went easy with your stones, didn't you?
Well done, Yurul.
22
Were you scared?
You let me finish off a lot of them on purpose.

Did you want to be better protected, Yurul?
And did you want to make me to all the killing?


Theses gnats are Tolui's enemies.
GWAH!


crack
crack
crack
By our custom of ultimogeniture, Tolui will be the next Great Khan.
It's an unshakable tradition, and those who try to change it through assassination...
ere Tolui's enemies, end mine.
Even if they are... our elder brothers.

Does he plan to make me a second body double, and use the Voice of Jade as a tool in his political struggles...?
Tolui uses Nalan as a body double because the other princes are out for his blood.

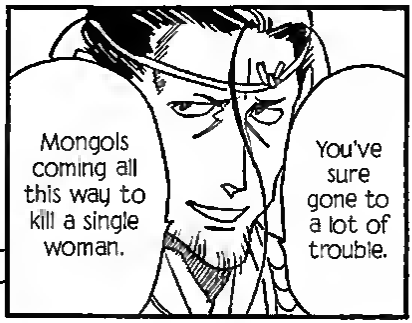
Oh, that's right, Yurul.

We're bathed in the same blood now.
You, me, and Tolui are real brothers now,
by the same blood flowing inside us, and the same blood splattered on our outsides.
I can't escape on foot with Yaraltu's wound and the weight of the Voice of Jade,
but I have to get away from him soon.
...I merely defended myself.
If I get caught up in Nalan's rhythm, the Mongols will pull me in.

–I see, Zess.
We had planned to follow the rumors of Shut Hell moving towards the battlefield at Zhongdu,
but I never imagined we'd find her so soon.

And here I'd heard Mongol military discipline was pretty strict.
Won't you all be beheaded for desertion as soon as you get back?

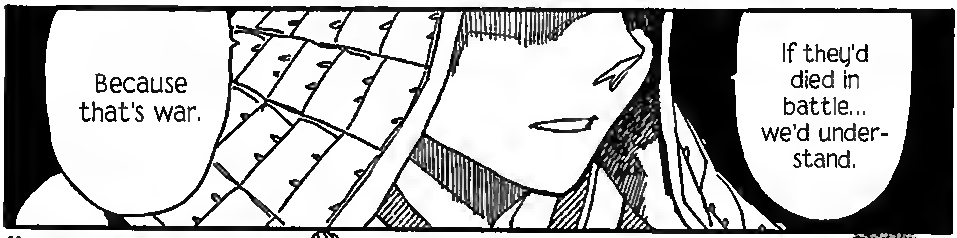
She's to the East. We'll tail her at a distance.


You've sure gone to a lot of trouble.
Mongols coming all this way to kill a single woman.

That woman killed them.
Woah!
She killed the brothers, and fathers, and sons of every man here.
And she laughed while she did it.

This is retribution.
She was supposed to have been caught and executed, but we heard she'd come back to life and fled to Jin...

Aren't you ready to kill or be killed any time?
But you Mongols are always making war.
!

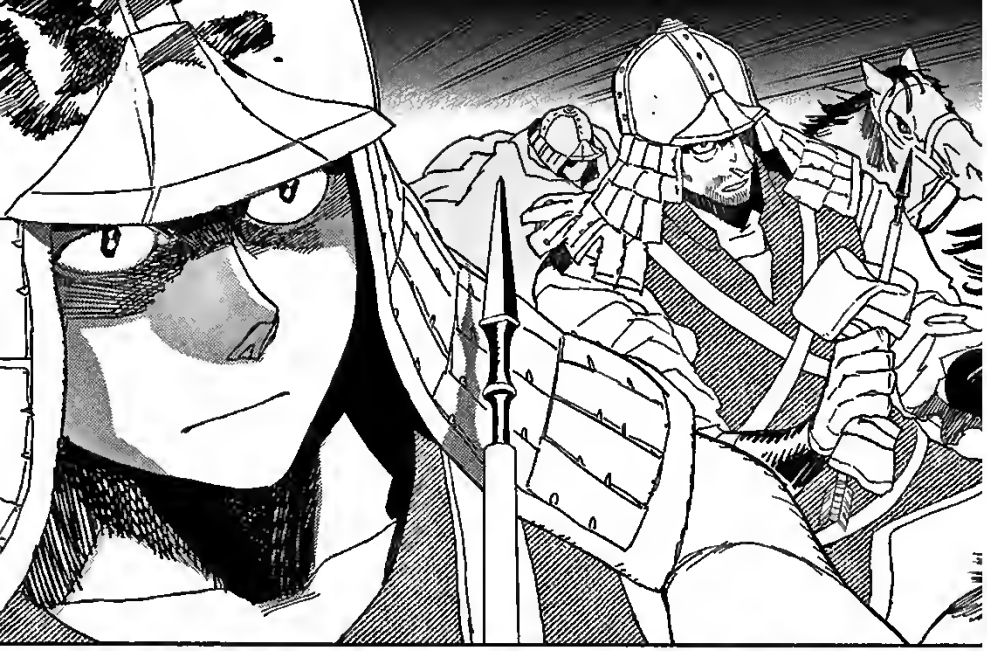

Because that's war.
If they'd died in battle... we'd understand.

...Well, it's all the same to me.
She killed them for fun...!
But she was enjoying it.

As long as her head will fetch a good price...
I'll guide you, and take my little share of the profits.

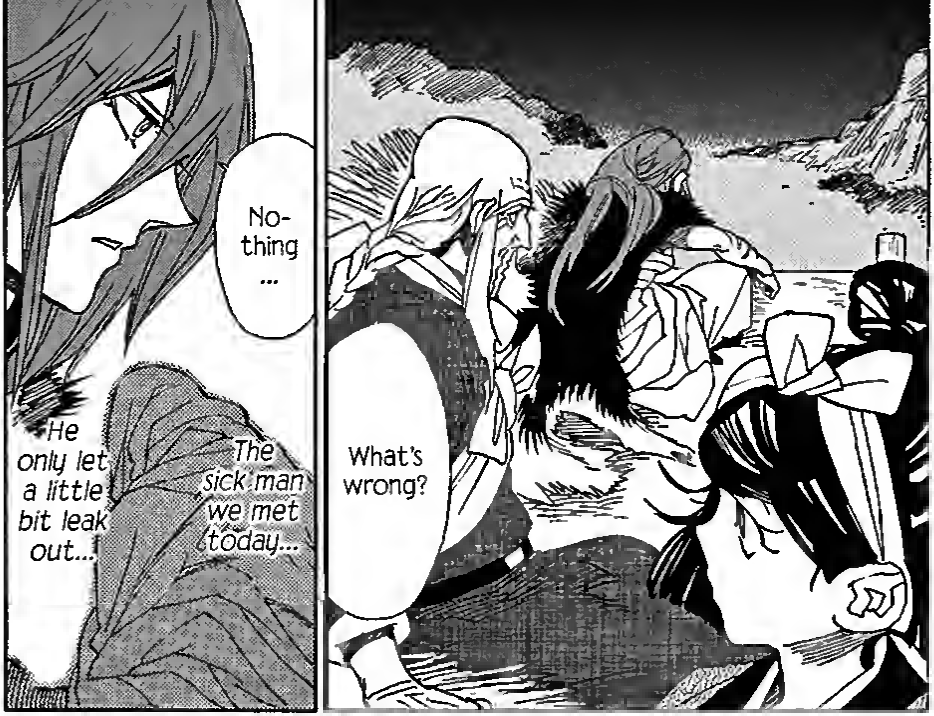
Hand round those expensive poison arrows.
If someone so much as grazes her with one, it'll be enough.

As that Han – Li Wan – says, we have no place to return to.
We'll find our opportunity and bring her down.
We will have our revenge.

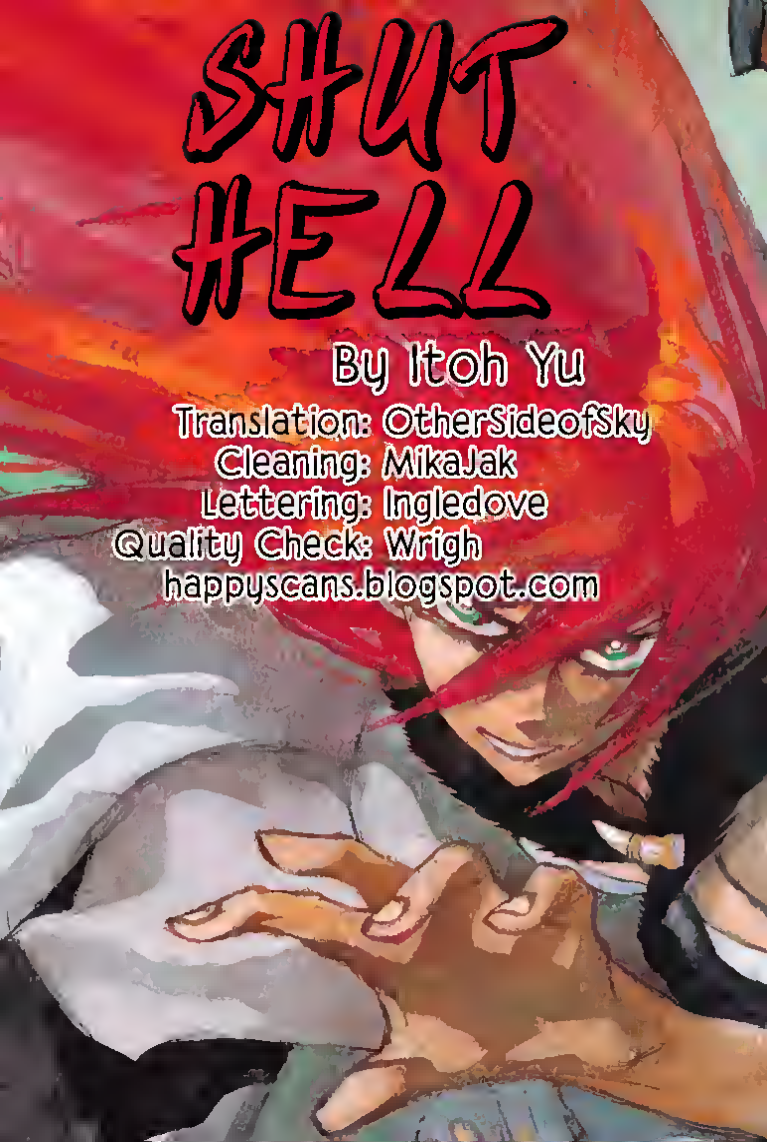


Revenge for our brothers, fathers and sons, and revenge for our own lives.

We will kill "Shut Hell."


No-
thing
...
He only let a little bit leak out...
The sick man we met today...
What's wrong?

but I could smell his blood-lust.
It's been a while.


SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check: Wrigh
happyscans.blogspot.com

[Chapter LVII]

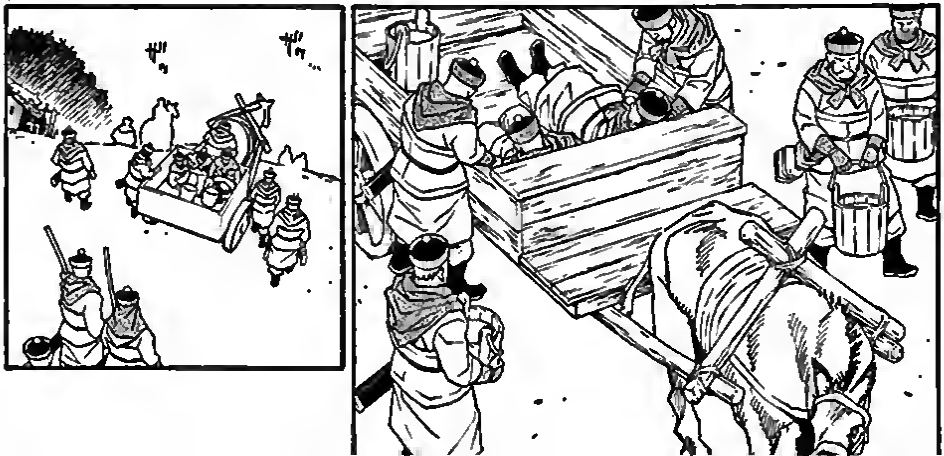
The Poison Arrows

We're being followed.
18 DAYS (ABOUT 800 KM) TO JUYONGGUAN
creak
creak
creak
SWISH
SWISH
All the people who managed to avoid to war with the Mongols either fled or were evacuated by Jin troops.
It must be your imagination, miss... This area's already completely deserted.

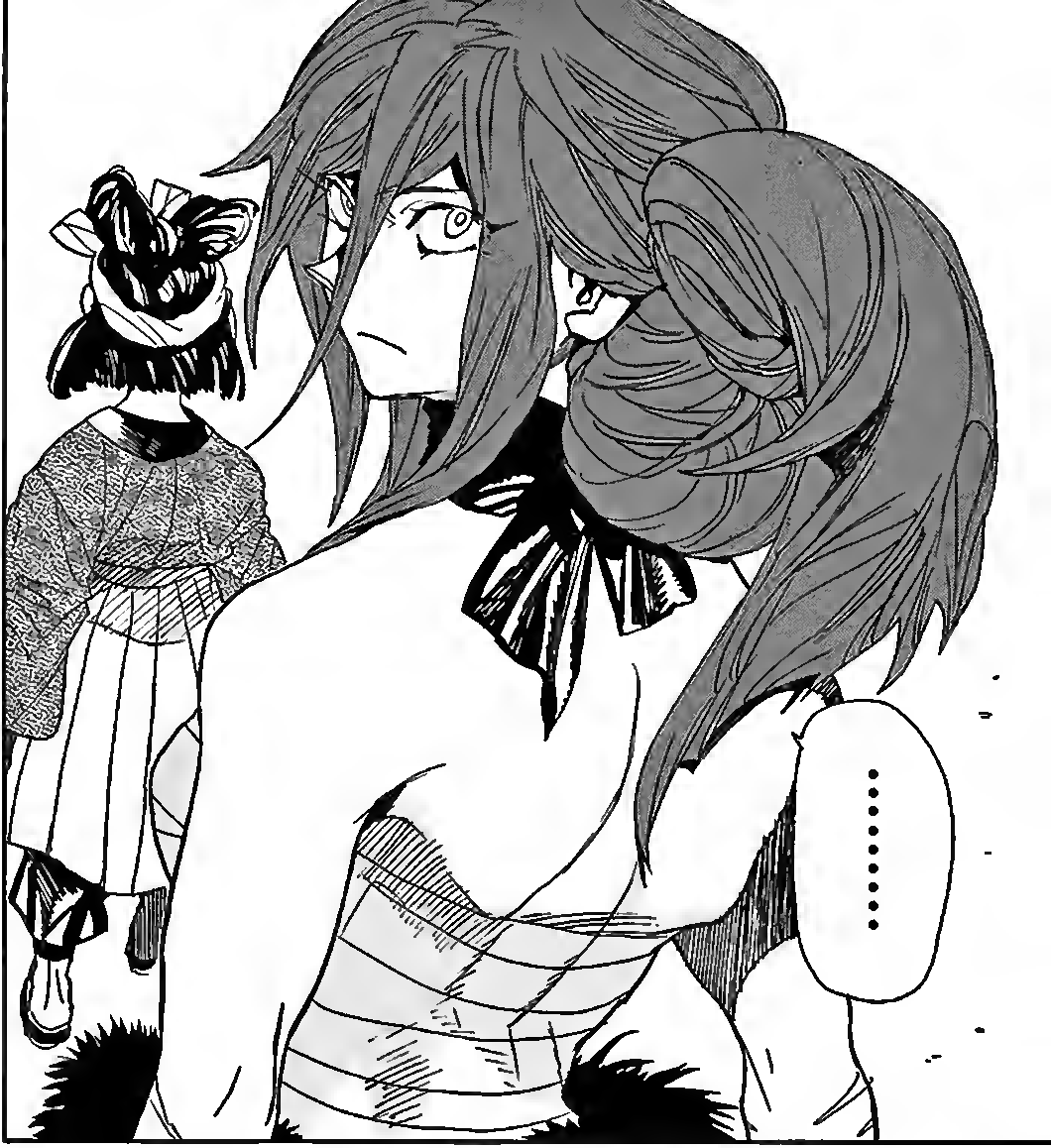
Jin soldiers.
Mongol and Jin troops are constantly on the prowl, and they've stripped the villages bare.
Nothing for robbers or highwaymen.
Hide yourselves. The cart too. Hurry.
It's like a ruin. Not even a dog le–
Aren't there any men in this village? Even old men will do for moving supplies.

That's a relief. We can use it to carry the wounded.
A donkey. Must have wandered off.
And that's...
Ah!
Water. A well.

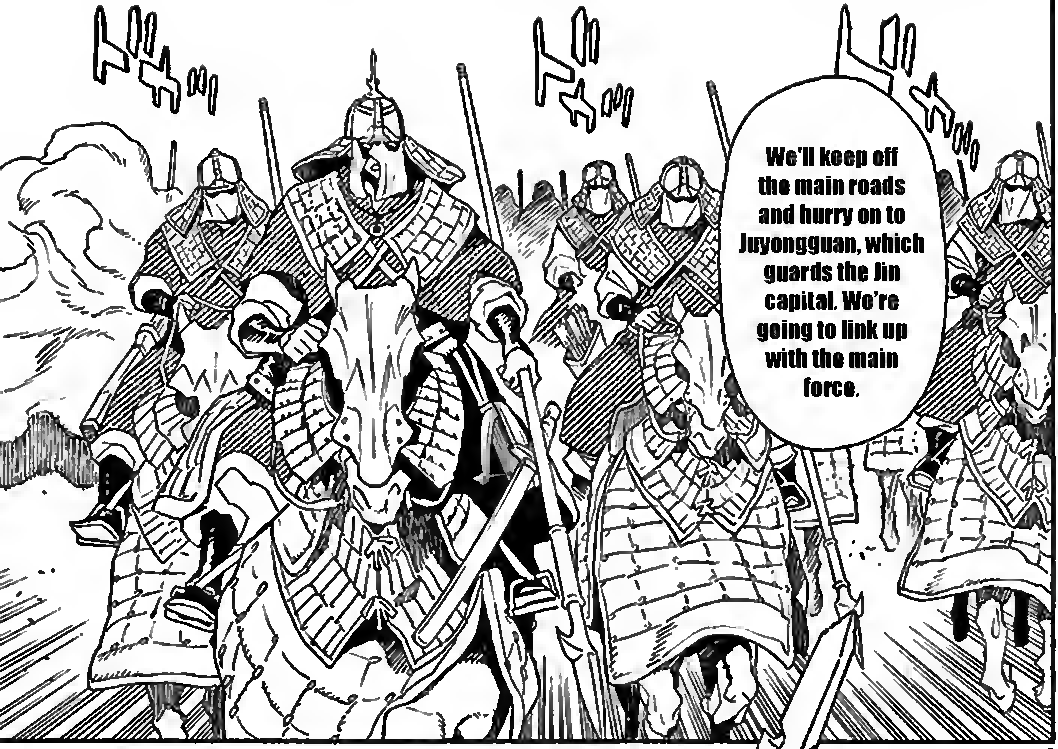
And now the Jin army's carried him off...
Damn it. No matter how I pushed and pulled, I just couldn't make that ass move away from the water.

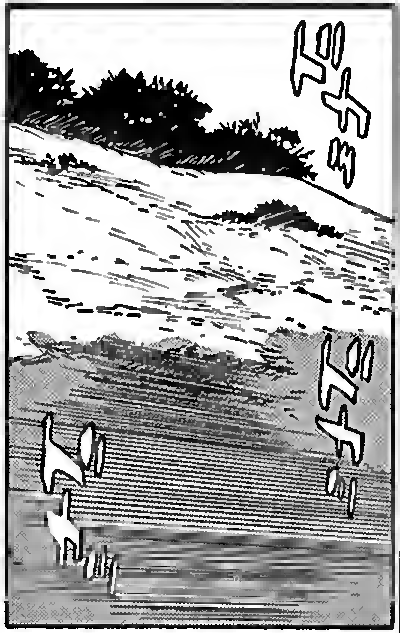


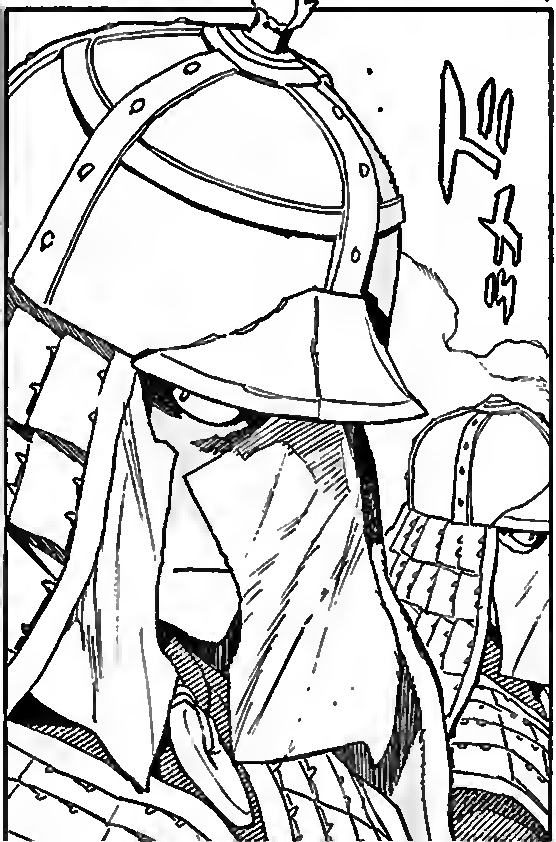
...We've lost our legs...
What a thing to happen.
And right when we need to catch up to Master Yurul as quickly as possible.
I blew it.
We should never have come to draw water in daylight.
–It's him!
Li Wan, that no-good traitor.
He's watching, but he won't do anything to help.

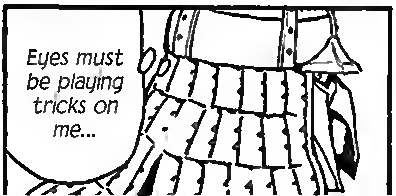

……

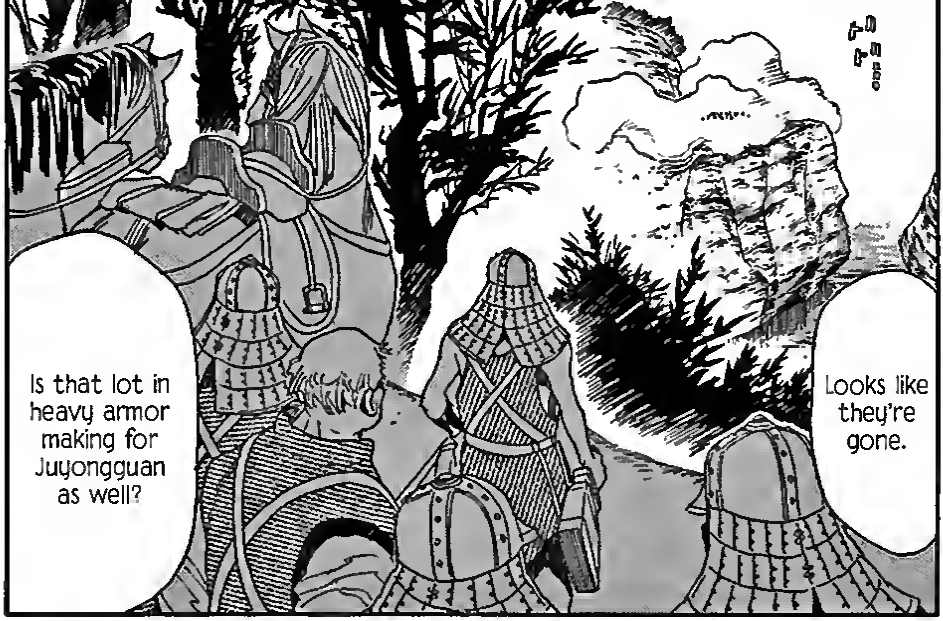
ドドド


We'll keep off the main roads and hurry on to Juyongguan, which guards the Jin capital. We're going to link up with the main force.





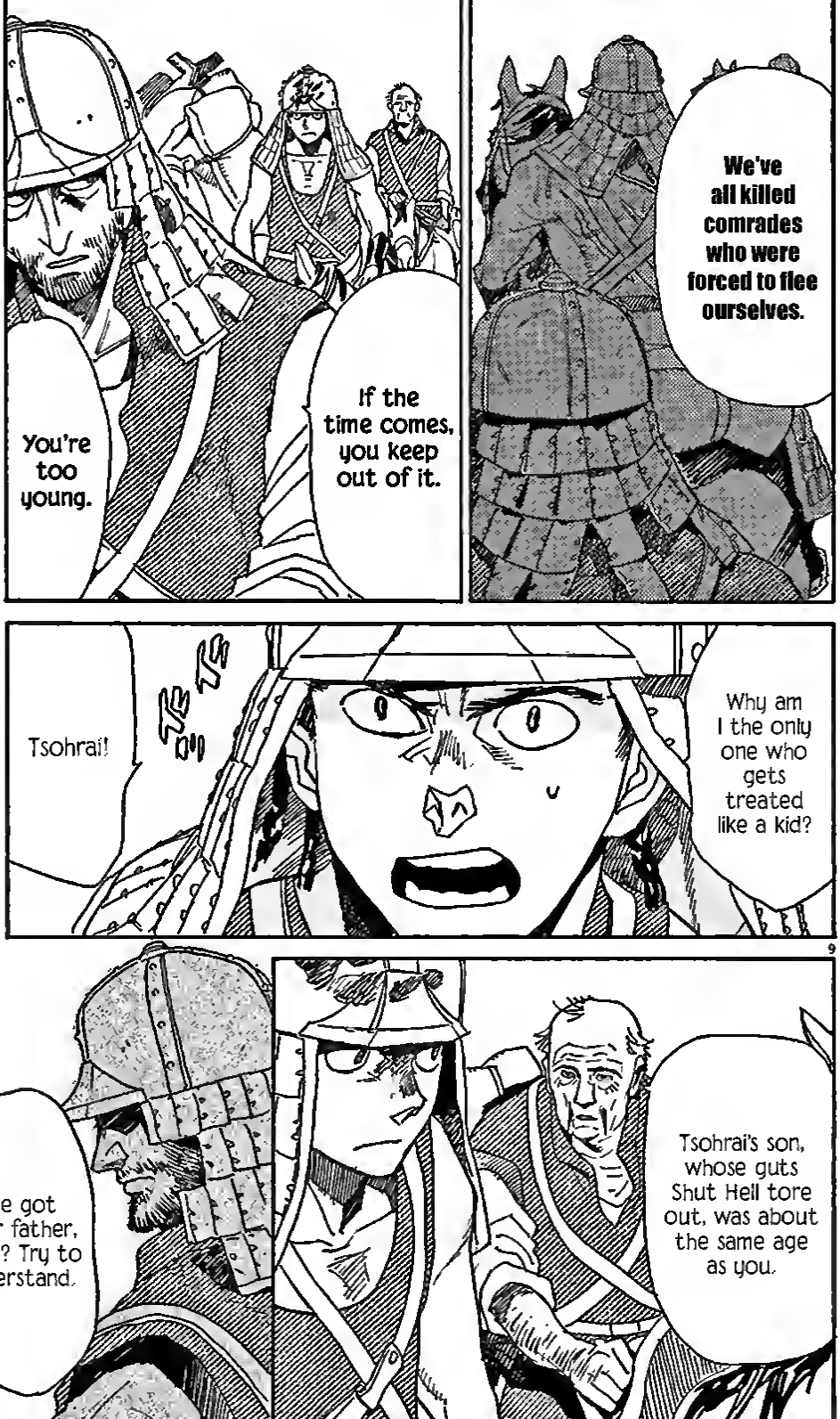

Eyes must be playing tricks on me...

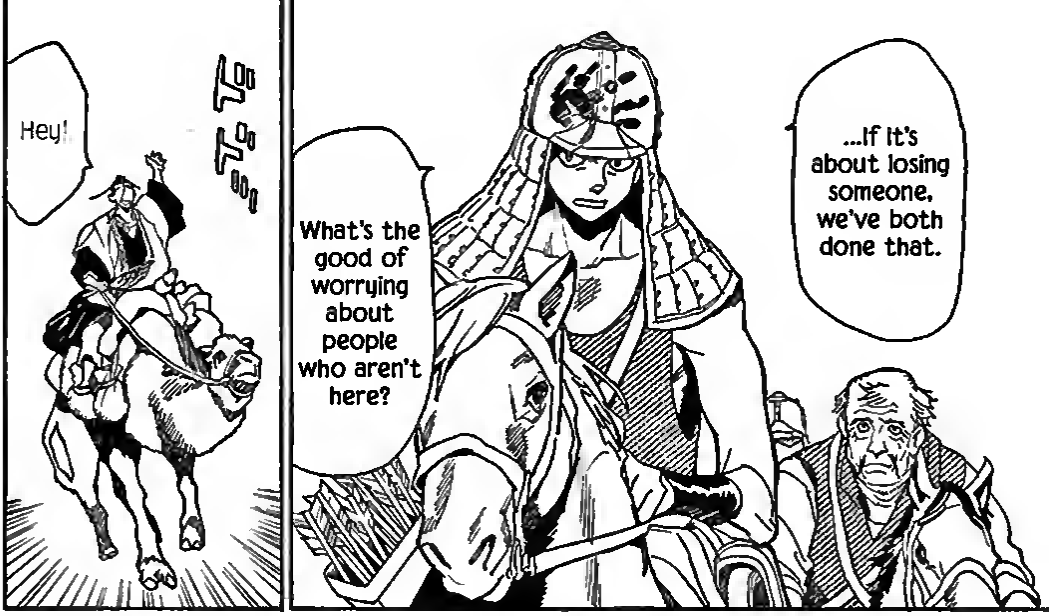

Looks like they're gone.
Is that lot in heavy armor making for Juyongguan as well?

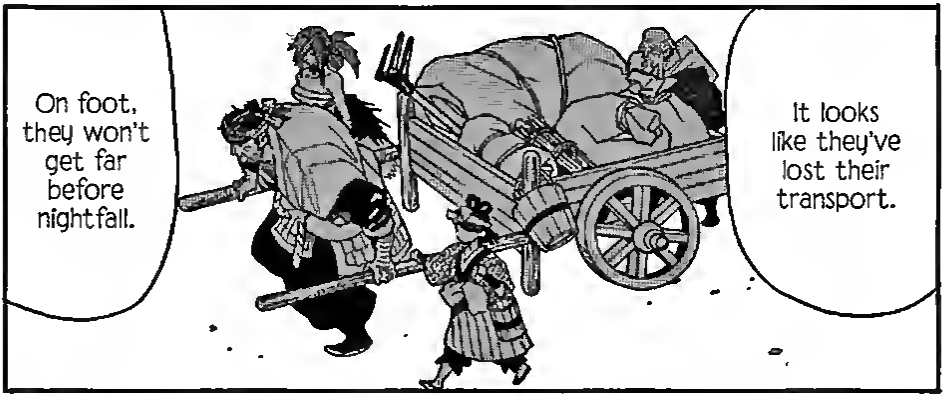
It's hard to run and hide from our fellow Mongols.
Get used to it. We're all deserters to be killed when we go back.

They must have just come from taking Datong, or some other major Jin city.

See, Zess, all of us...


You're too young.
If the time comes, you keep out of it.
We've all killed comrades who were forced to flee ourselves.
Tsohrai!
Why am I the only one who gets treated like a kid?
She got your father, right? Try to understand.
Tsohrai's son, whose guts Shut Hell tore out, was about the same age as you.

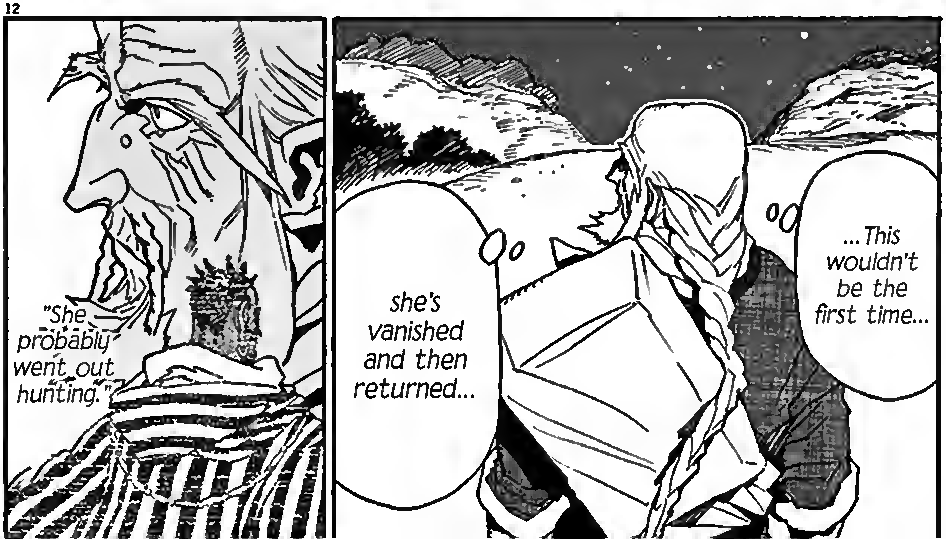

Hey!
What's the good of worrying about people who aren't here?
...If it's about losing someone, we've both done that.


On foot, they won't get far before nightfall.
It looks like they've lost their transport.

Well, Tsohrai? Shall we try it?
I can guess where they'll make camp.

We'll use those poison arrows, and finish her with the first shot.
Our only target is Shut Hell.
We'll surround her in her sleep and all fire at once.
Let's end this,
and take back our lives.

... Where's that woman?
Huh?
Probably doing her business.


"She probably went out hunting."
she's vanished and then returned...
...This wouldn't be the first time...

—A little farther, and we'll be at their camp.
We leave the horses here.
Don't make a sound.
!!
ドスッ

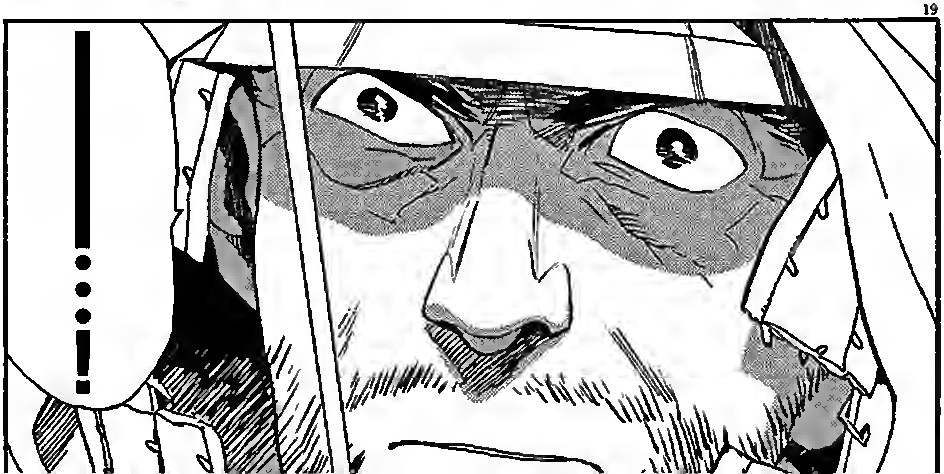
14
Shut Hell...!
15
choke
burble

Poison arrows, is it?
Gvaaahh!

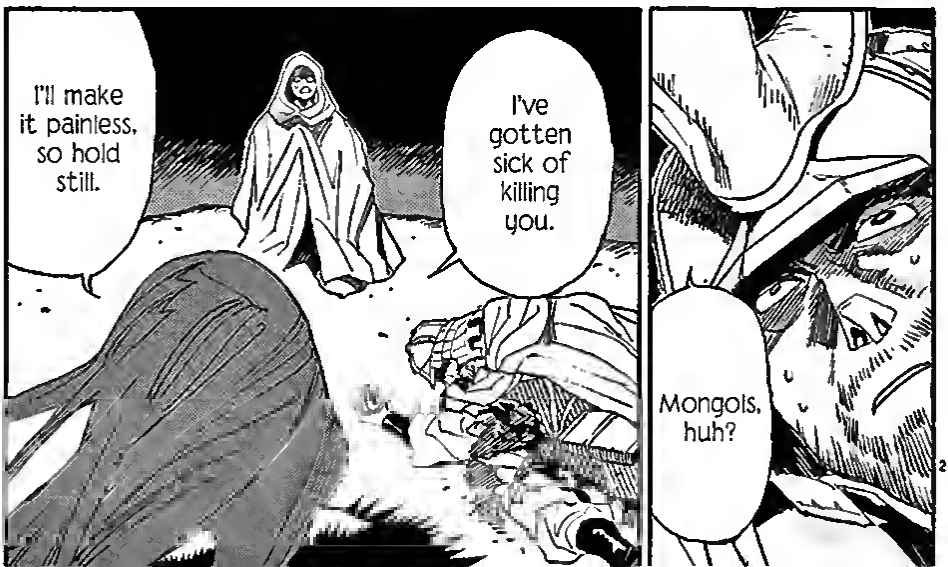
!
ドコ

SWK
!!
HACH
COUGH
...A poison... arrow...
cough

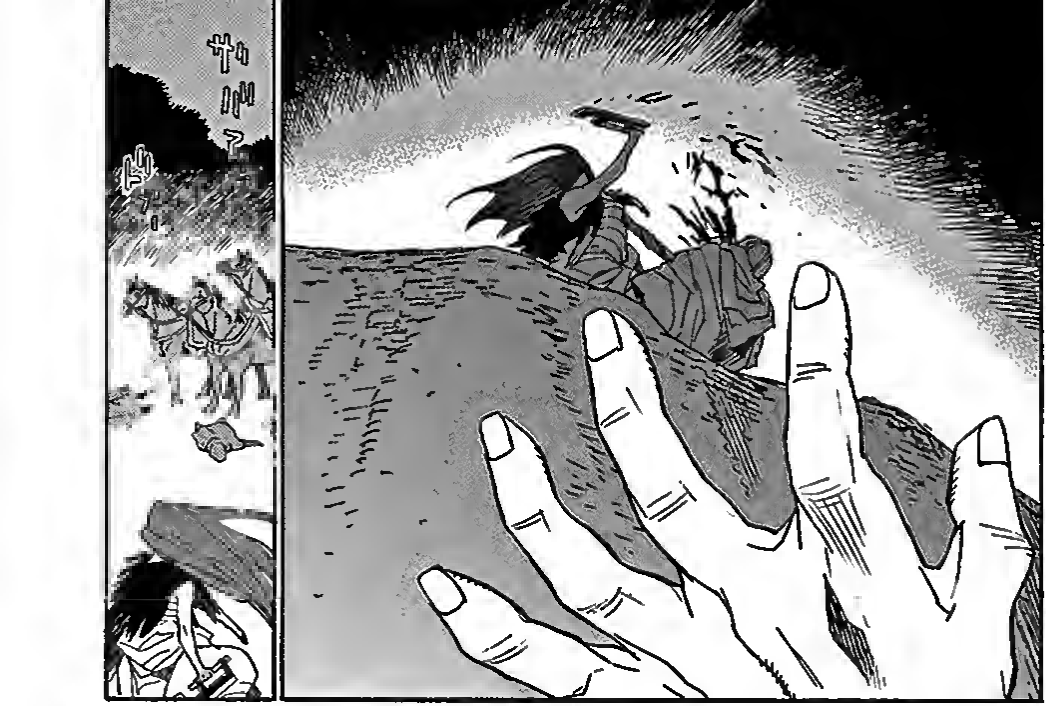
I won't miss.
Expose your back, Shut Hell.
I'll show you=!


!!!!!

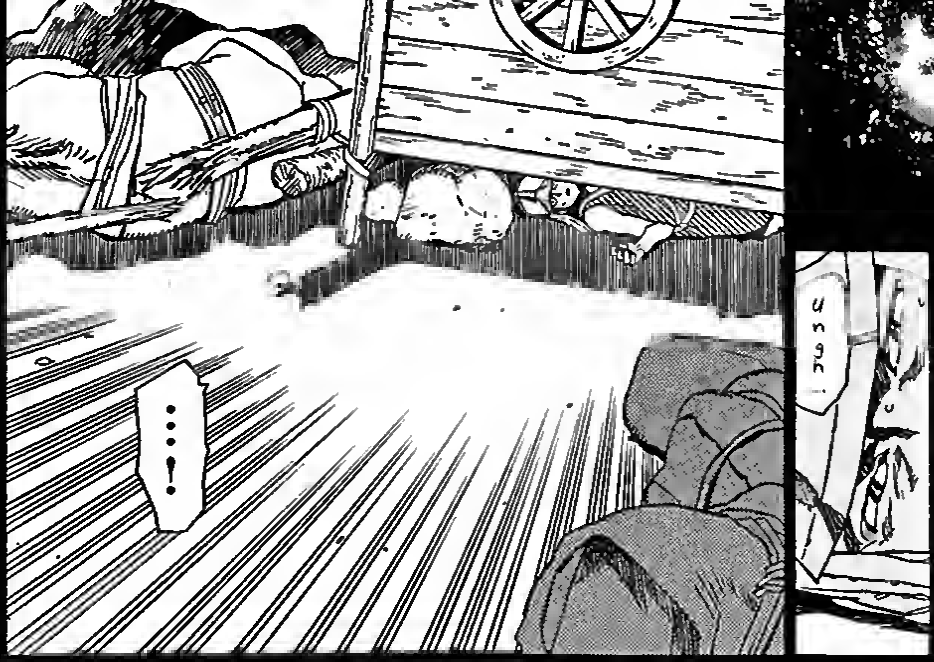
Zess
...
Take your hands off him...
It looks like he matters more to you than the others.
...What ...?
20
Stop! Don't drop them!!
Then throw away your bow and arrows.

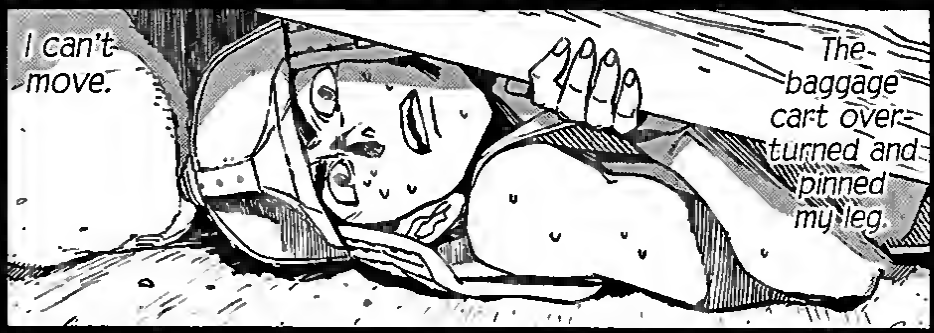

I'll make it painless, so hold still.
I've gotten sick of killing you.
Mongols, huh?

ナニ!

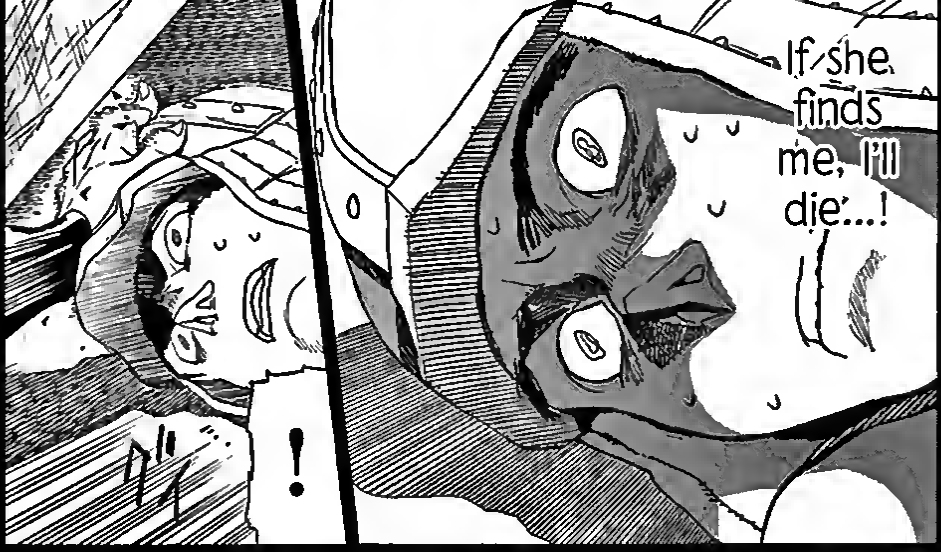


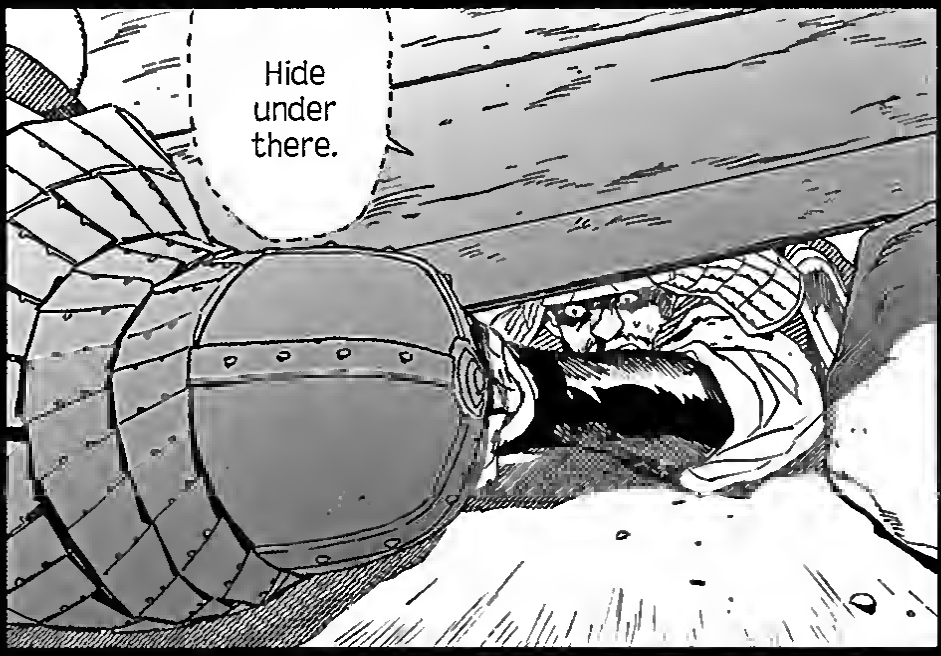
SNORT
I'm lucky they had horses.
I'm on my way, Yurul.

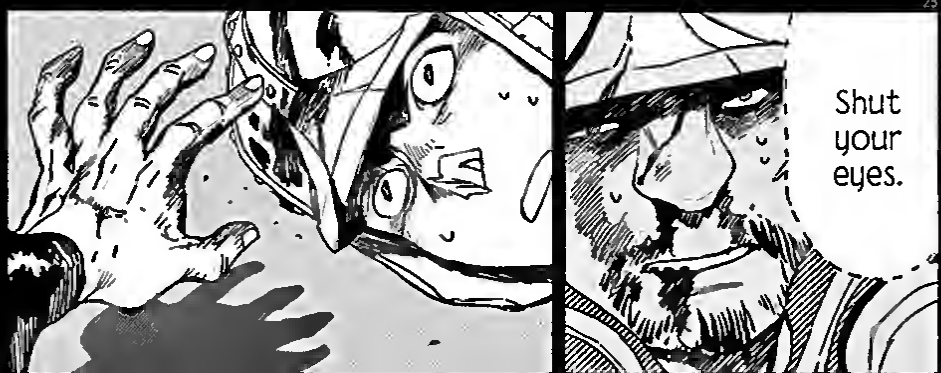

...!
ugh...

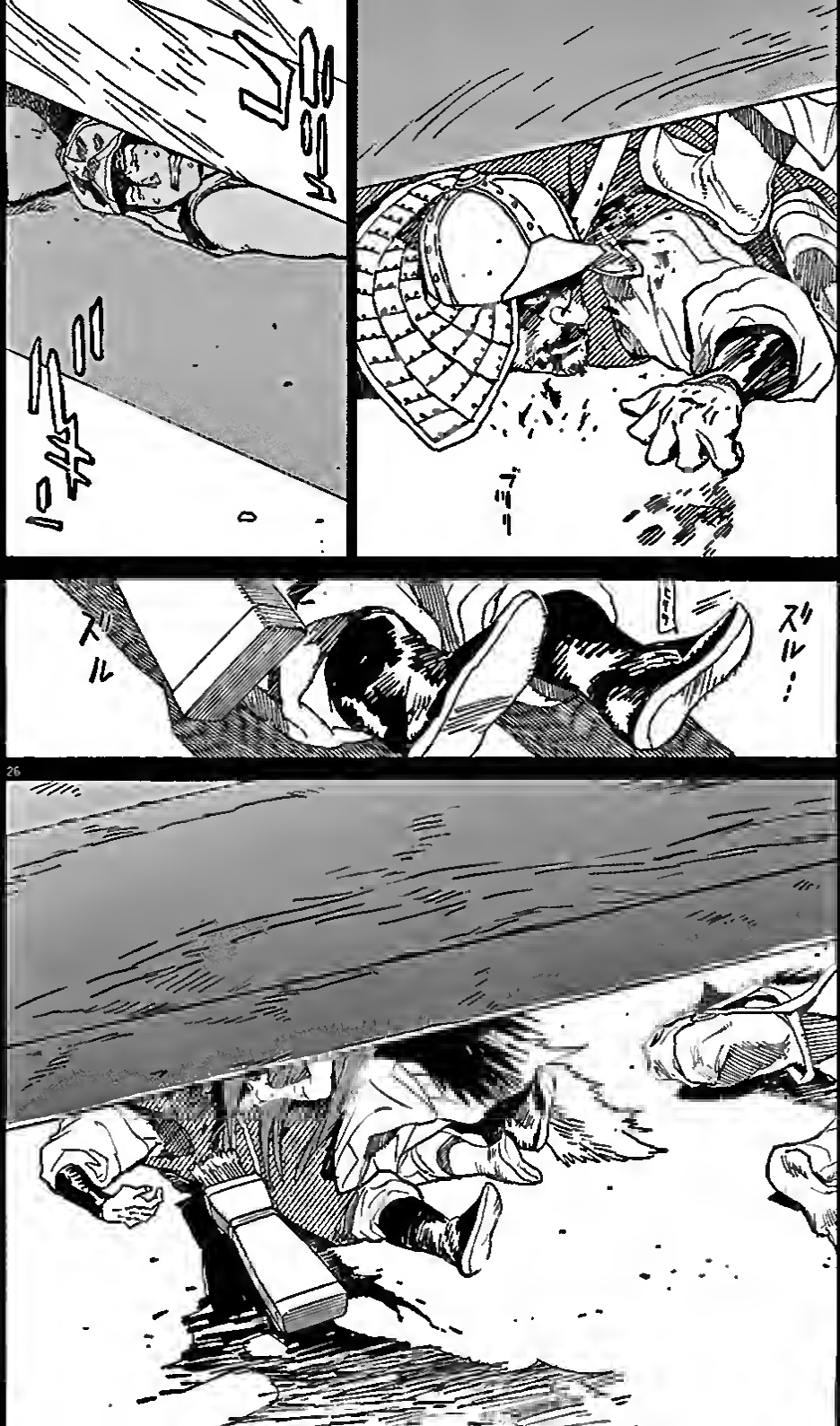

I can't move.
The baggage cart overturned and pinned my leg.

When she gets closer, she'll find me.
crush
Shut Hell hasn't noticed me yet. But she's coming this way.
crush


!
If she finds me, I'll die...!


Hide under there.


Shut your eyes.


ドサッ
ゴロ
ズル
ズル！

WAAAAHHH
Uh...
Ugh...
DAD!!

AH
AA
AHH
!!
AA
AH!
AAH!
AH
!
WA
AH
!

There's some-one lying over there...
What is it, Xin?
Wait!

That bastard must have abandoned him.
Looks like he's alive. Could that be the sick man Li Wan had with him?

Pant...
Pant...

[Chapter LXVIII]

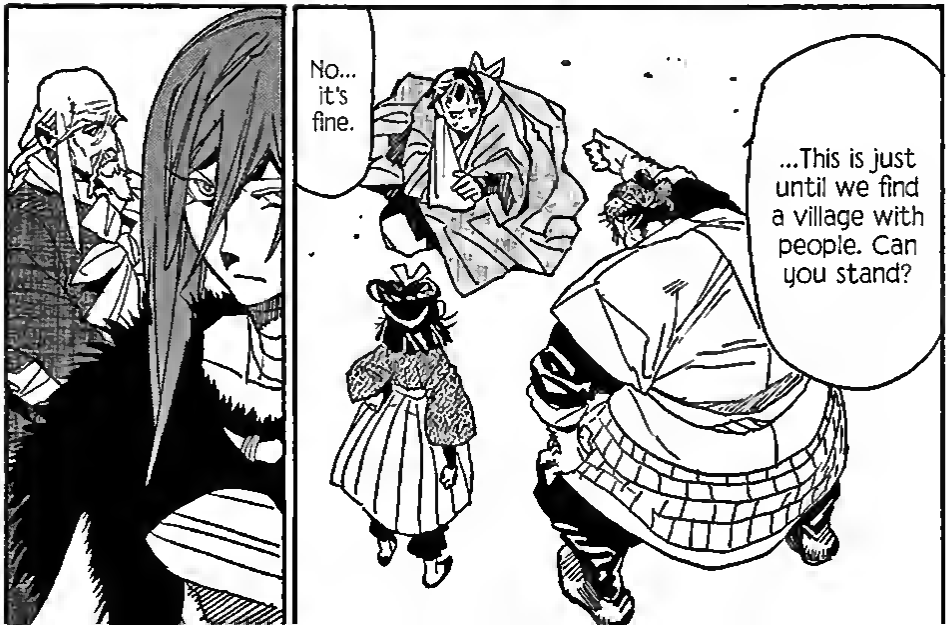
Mingling

Must have had a rough time of it.
Abandoned by Li Wan, thrown off your horse, and even had your arm broken?
You got any relations? Parents? Brothers?
Past
Past
...All taken by the army...
to Juyong-guan...
–There was no moon last night.

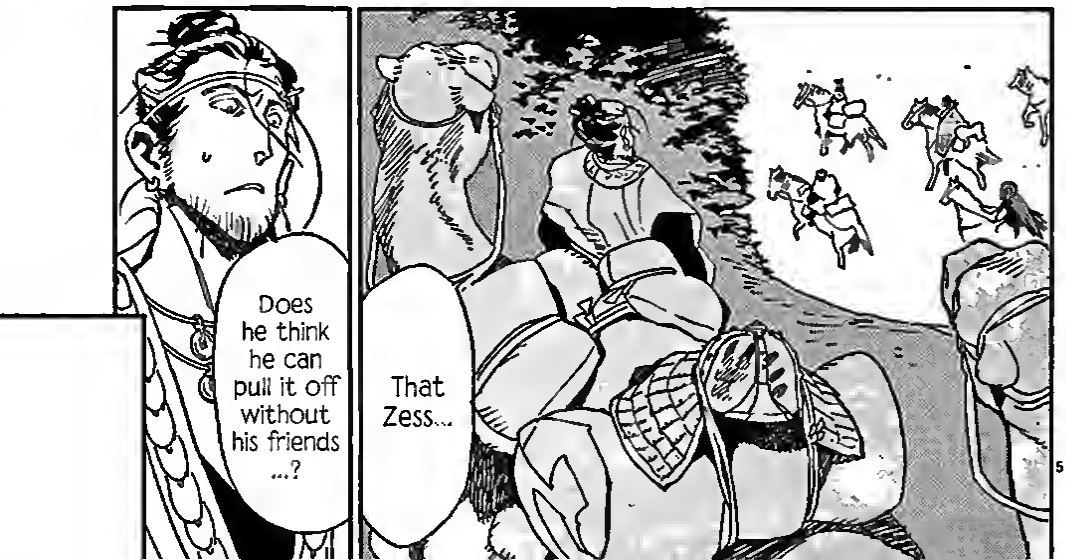
But you're a fool, Shut Hell.
Won't bringing him along slow us down?
A fool not to notice.
She couldn't see my face, and she hasn't heard my voice.
It looks like he matters more to you than the others.

...While you pick up every wounded man you see, his life is likely growing shorter.
Mr. Wumu.
Do you remember the boy we bought passage for?

Help him, boss.
This guy's really shaking.
I'll help anyone who Li Wan's done a bad turn.
Don't worry.
pant
pant


...This is just until we find a village with people. Can you stand?
No... it's fine.

I'll find a time when her guard is down.
I'll stand on my own.
I'm in.
This poison arrow-head in my hand...
is a trick I can only use once.

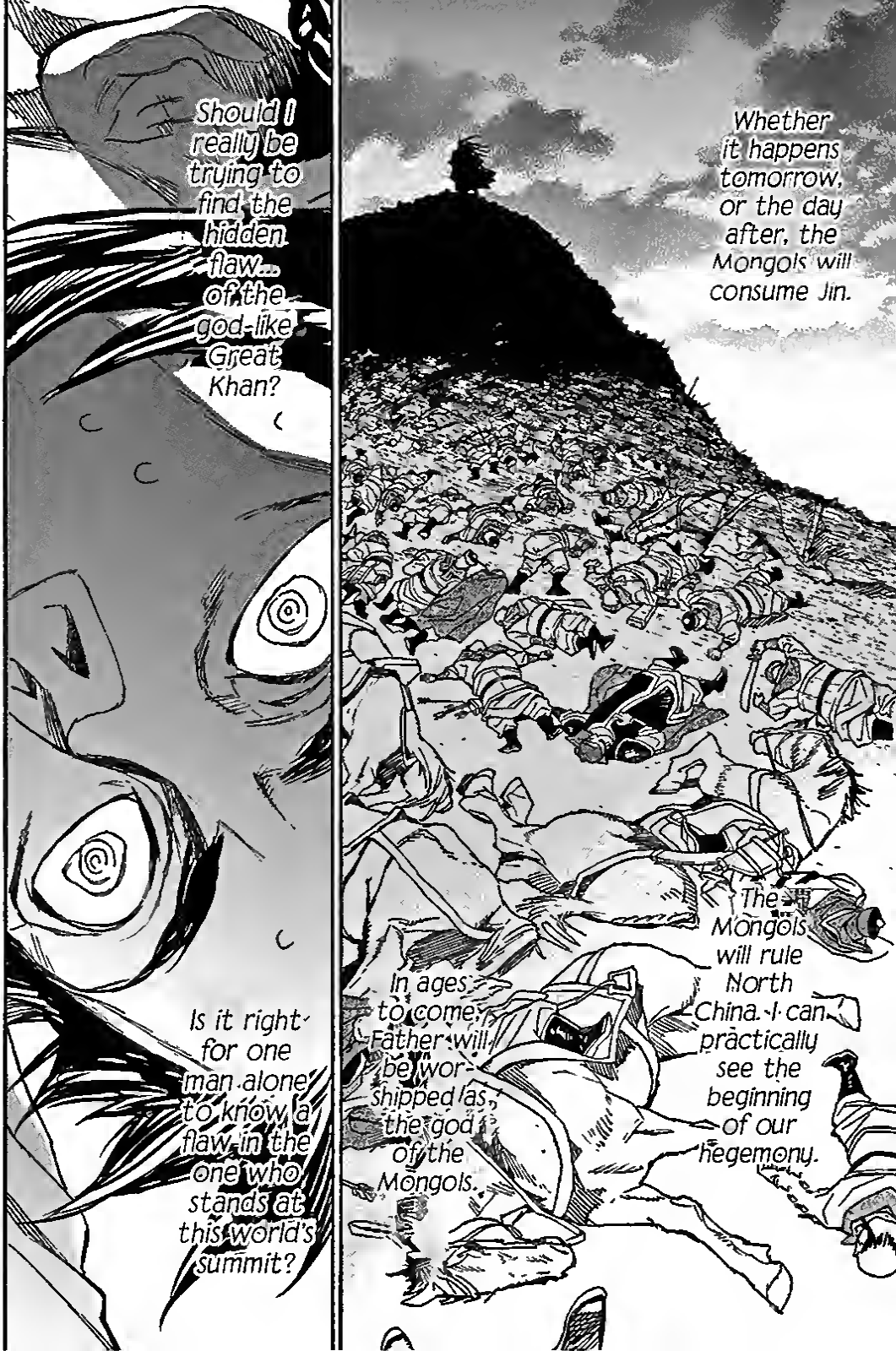

Does he think he can pull it off without his friends ...?
That Zess...

Zess, what happened to your buddies?
We've been waiting a long time, and they're not coming back.
Hey.
Hold this.
Say, Zess, did you get swept away by the river?
You're here way ahead of that "Shut Hell," or whatever.
but never clean it.
It's a little dirty,

Is this... blood? A hand print?
It's a memento of my father.
If you wipe it off, I'll kill you.
...She's not on her guard.
If I can just find one little opening...
If I can just prick her even a little with this...
I can put an end to her.

ガラガラ
ドカ
ハァ
ハァ
There are the letters I saw... that time...
So that really was Tangut writing.
I'm sure it was this one, and...

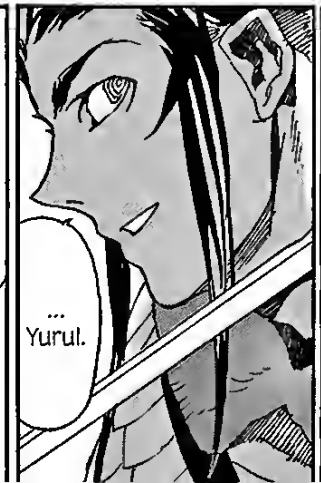
I must not look...
at the writing on father's back.

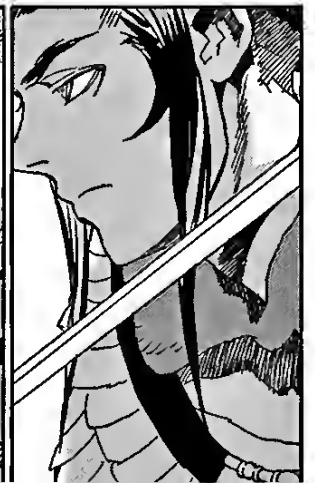

Should I really be trying to find the hidden flaw... of the god-like Great Khan?
Is it right for one man alone to know a flaw in the one who stands at this world's summit?
Whether it happens tomorrow, or the day after, the Mongols will consume Jin.
In ages to come, Father will be worshipped as the god of the Mongols.
The Mongols will rule North China. I can practically see the beginning of our hegemony.

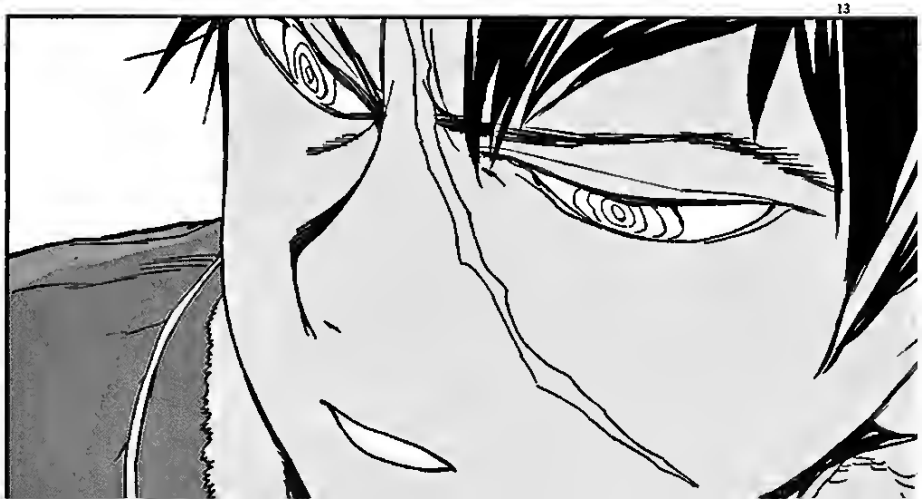
I have Tolui.
No... I'm not alone.
11
So...
to learn what was written there, I will...
press on.
shik

Give that back, Nalan.

Why did you return my sword...?


... Yurul.





I'll make Nalan and the girl get out, then take a horse.
I should be able to return to Shut Hell and Boldu safely as long as I avoid the high road...
Stop the carriage!
hee hee
14
I'll... kill your precious master!
Stop the carriage!

It's not often that Melumi laughs, Yurul.
15
...!
He'll lose his fingers if I pull on the sword, but he still...!
You asked why I gave back your sword?

……!
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
It was because you're safe.

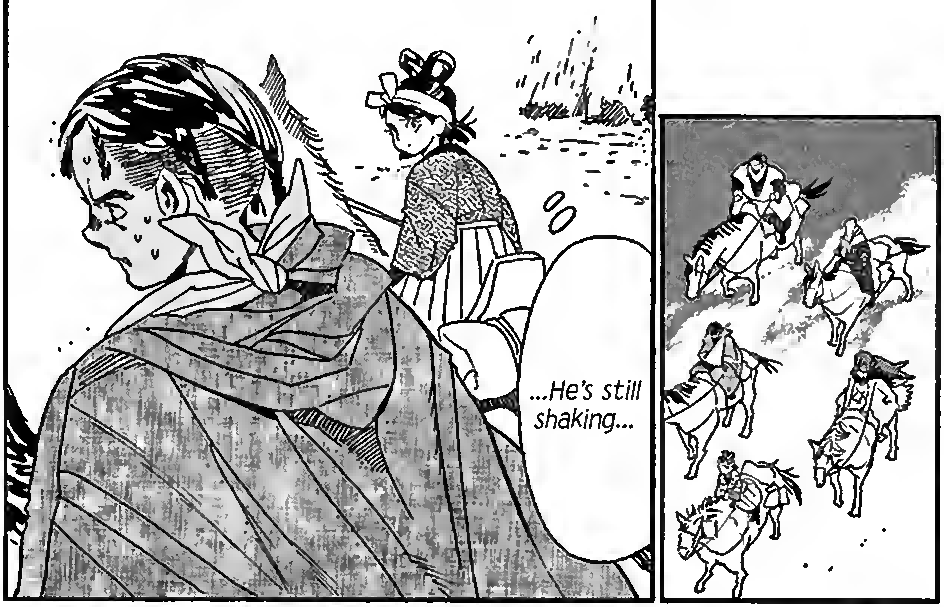
ガシッ

you surprised me with your foolishness.
Does he want to avoid harming even a finger on his enemy's hand?
He let go of the sword when he could have killed me!
I thought you were clever, but...
17
And we exchanged wine cups in friendship.
We also bathed in the same blood to protect a little girl.
It's obvious even to her
The Mongol brat is with them.
You haven't forgotten the debt you owe be for saving you in Yang's garden.

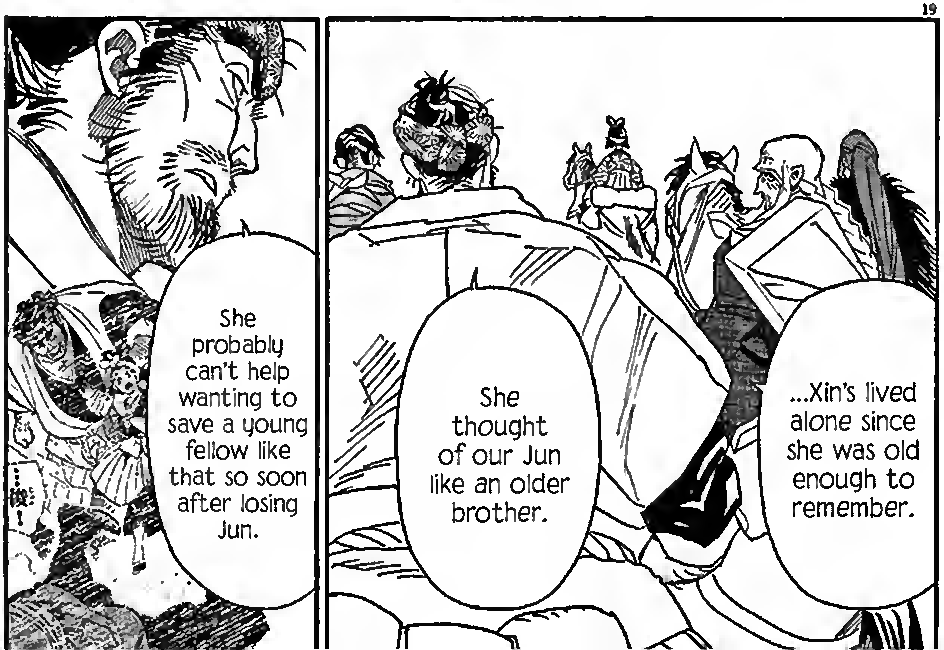
So, he doesn't yet have the strength to cast aside useless sentiment.
that you haven't got the determination to kill me.

18

even more than Tolui or I.
As I thought, Yurul resembles father
But the pressure of his gaze...
drip

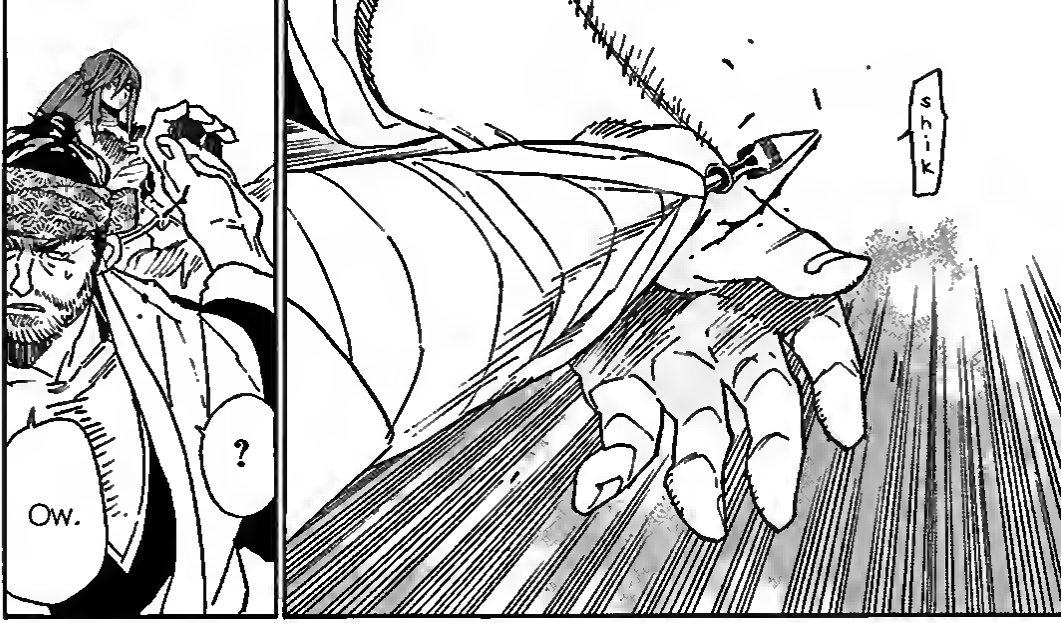

...He's still shaking...

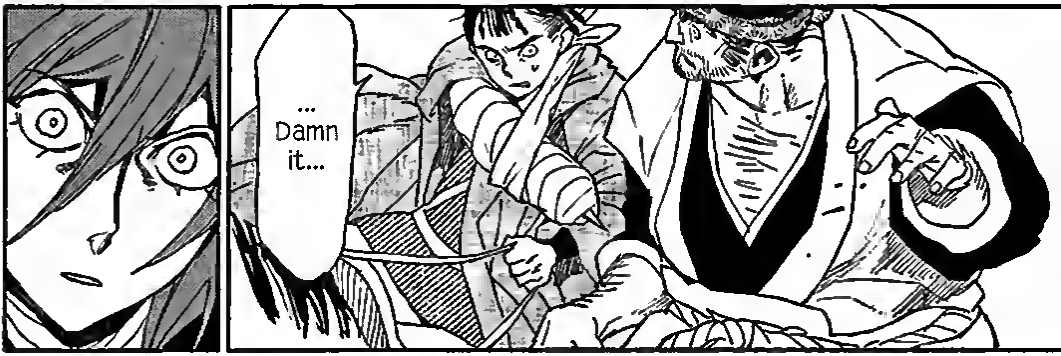
That bastard Li Wan really is the lowest gutter trash.
He was wounded, broke out in a fever, and abandoned on the roadside.

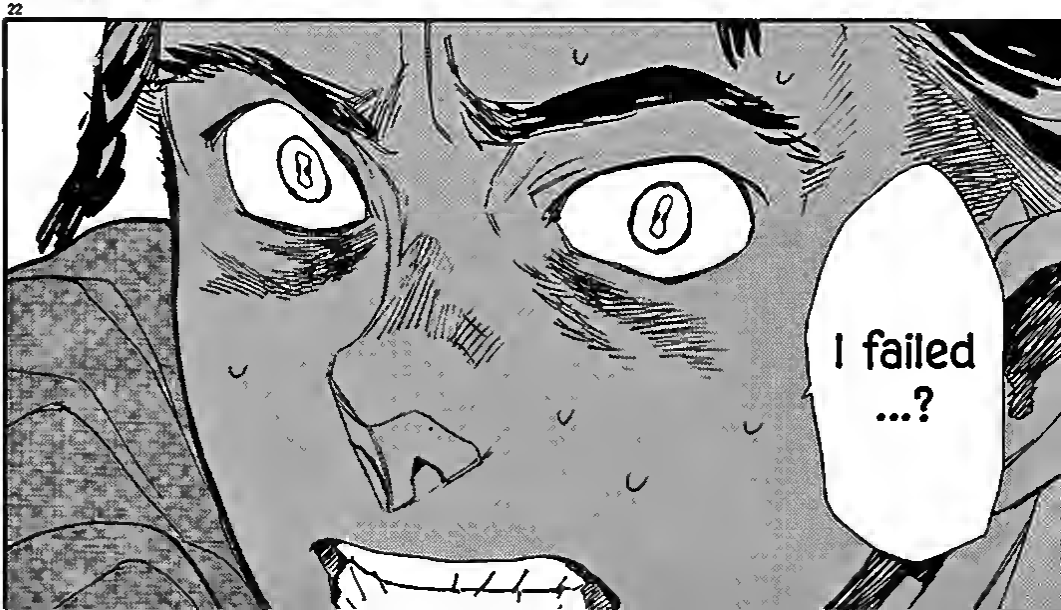

She probably can't help wanting to save a young fellow like that so soon after losing Jun.
She thought of our Jun like an older brother.
...Xin's lived alone since she was old enough to remember.

That's right... I'm an invalid.
And-thanks to a night in the river, my hand on the reins is shaky...
But that young one is unsteady in his saddle...
I doubt he can get off his horse again in that state...
My horse will carelessly step on
that little rise in the ground there.
Then it will nonchalantly stagger closer to Shut Hell...
lub-dub
lub-dub

lub-dub
dup-dup
ガチ…
lub-dub
dup-dup
lub-dub
Hey! You alright?
ガ…

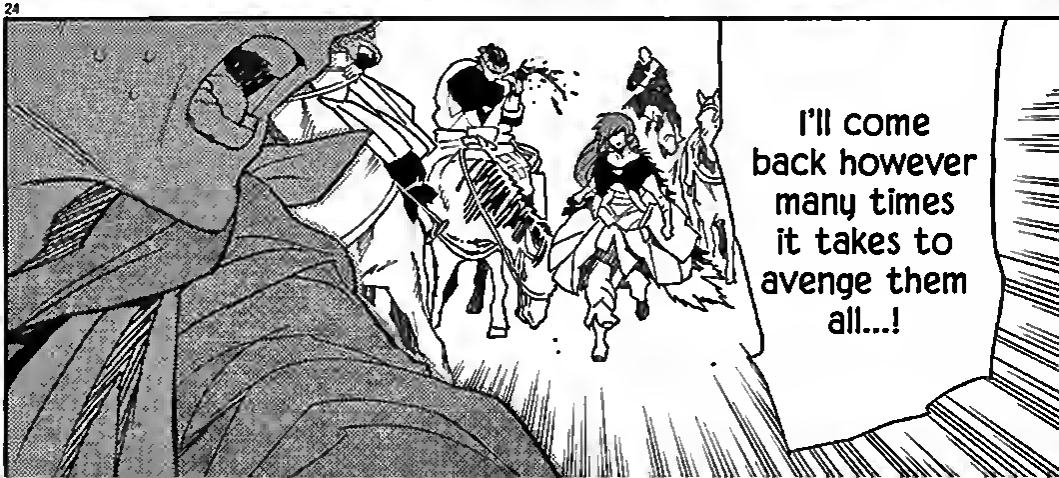

Ow.
?
shik

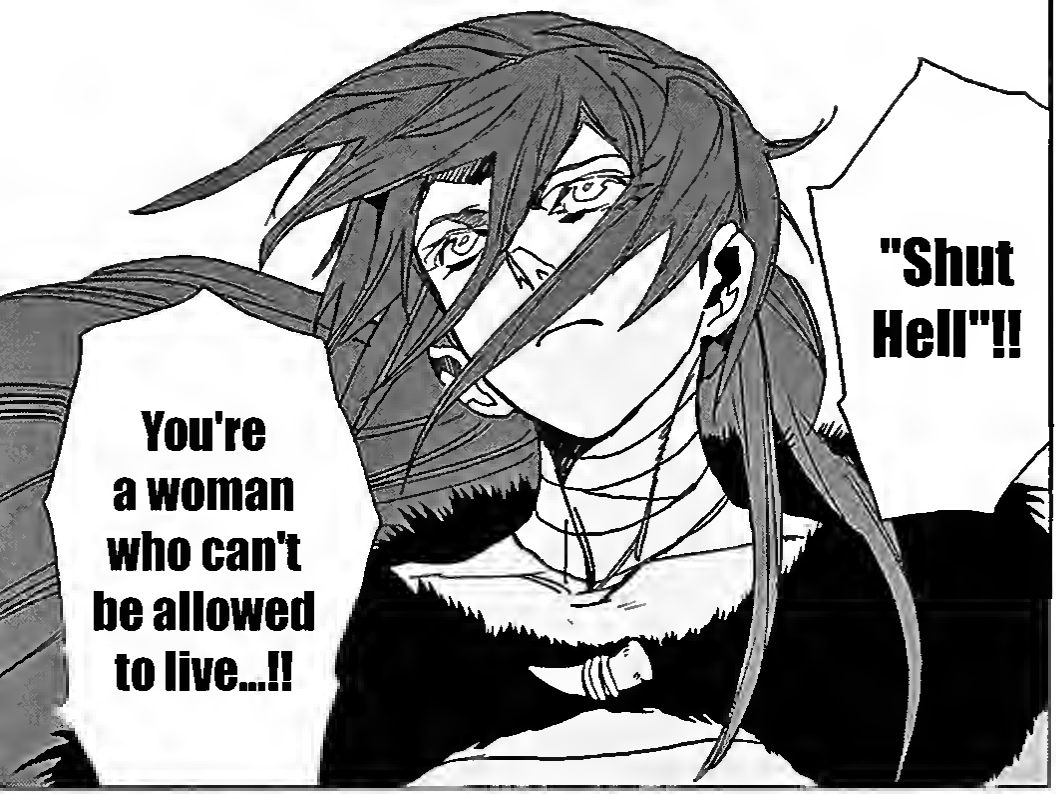

... Damn it...

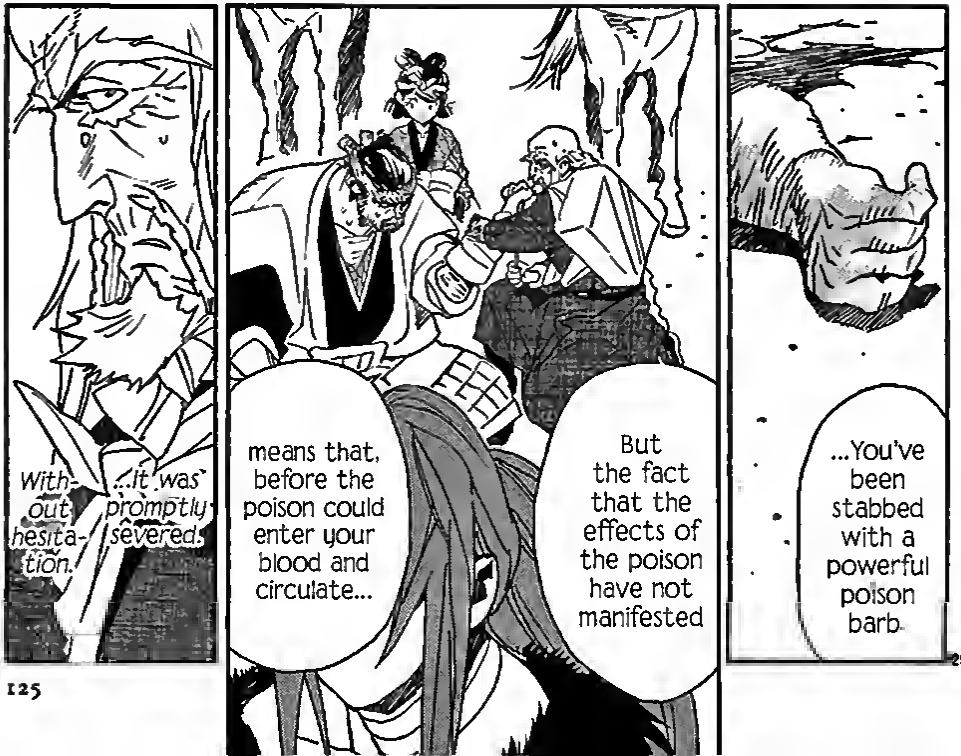

I failed ...?

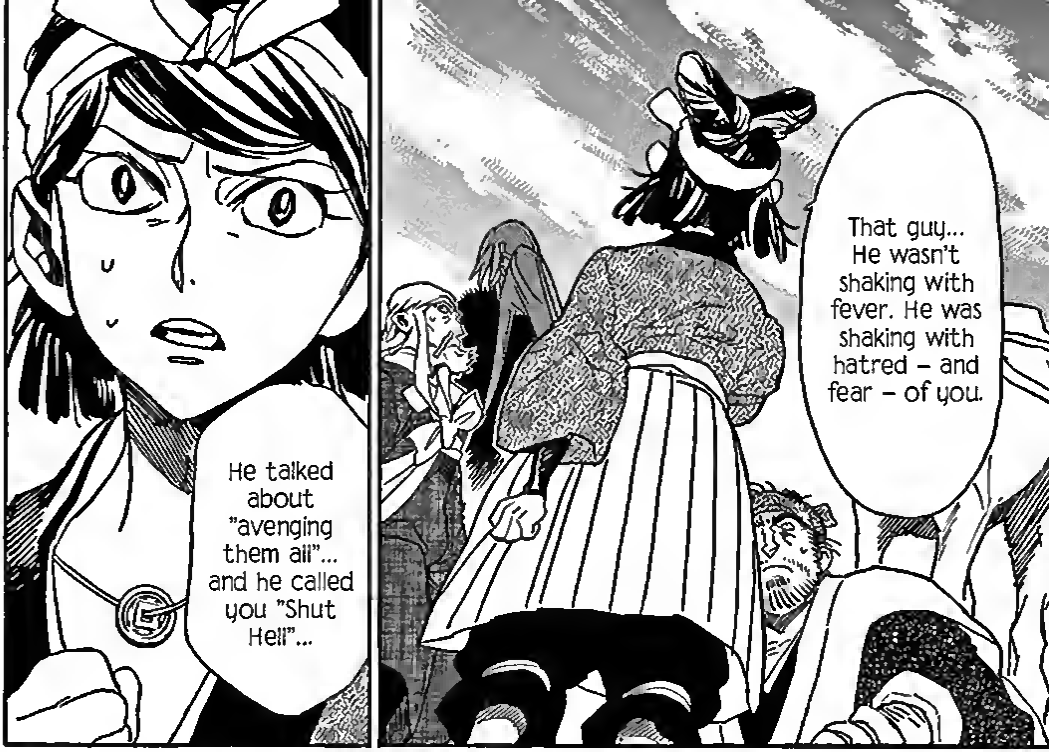
ガッ!
Kyaaahh!
Ooohhh...!
What the hell... are you doing...!?

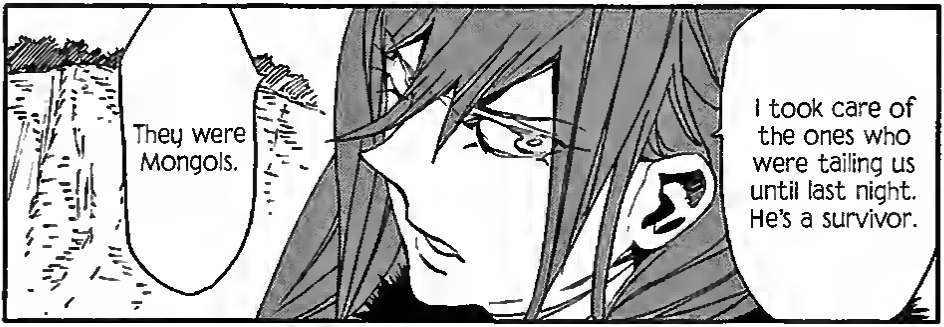
You're...
from last night...
Damn it, I'm found out!
...


I'll come back however many times it takes to avenge them all...!


"Shut Hell"!!
You're a woman who can't be allowed to live...!!


...You've been stabbed with a powerful poison barb.
But the fact that the effects of the poison have not manifested
means that, before the poison could enter your blood and circulate...
Without hesitation.
...it was promptly severed.


He talked about "avenging them all"... and he called you "Shut Hell"...
That guy... He wasn't shaking with fever. He was shaking with hatred – and fear – of you.

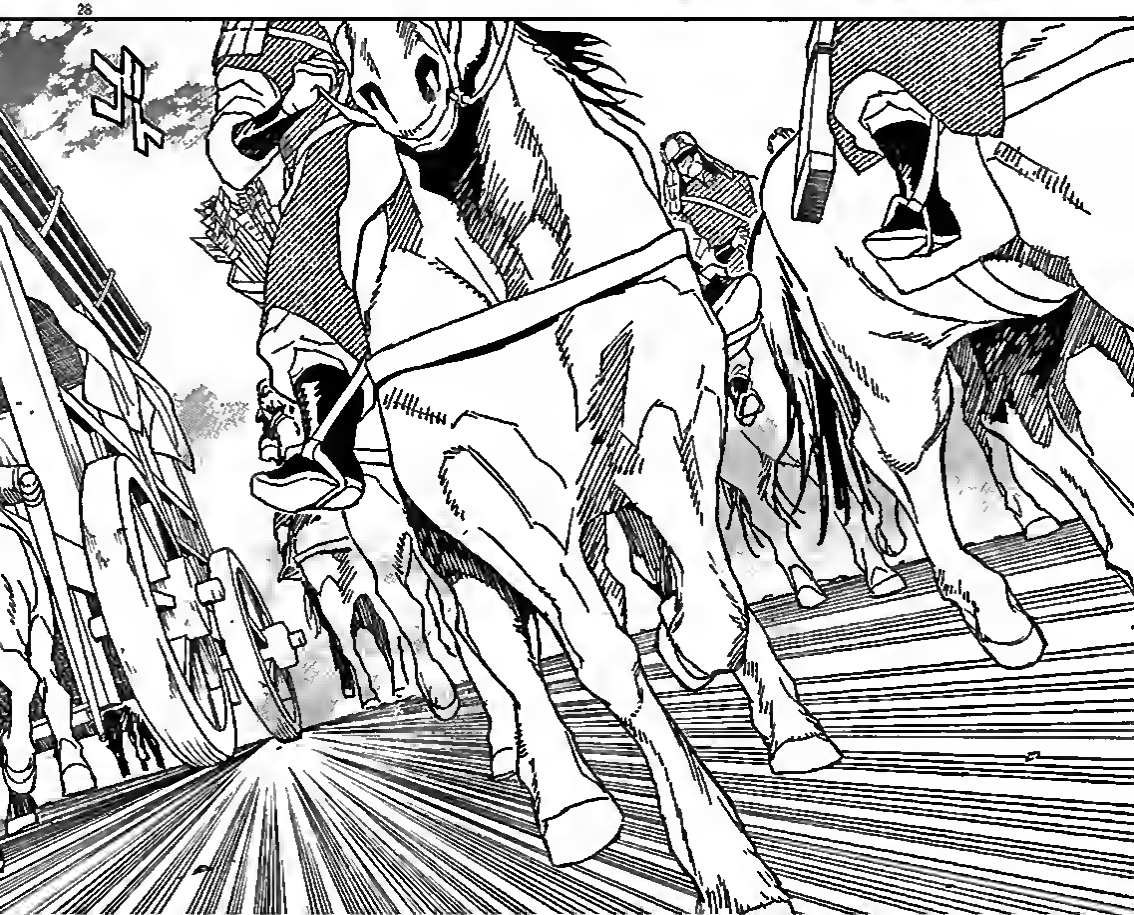

They were Mongols.
I took care of the ones who were tailing us until last night. He's a survivor.

Was it also your fault our friends died in Jingzhao?
What did you do to be hated that much?
Why did this happen to the boss?
That's not what I'm asking you!

What did you do...?
"Shut Hell" ...

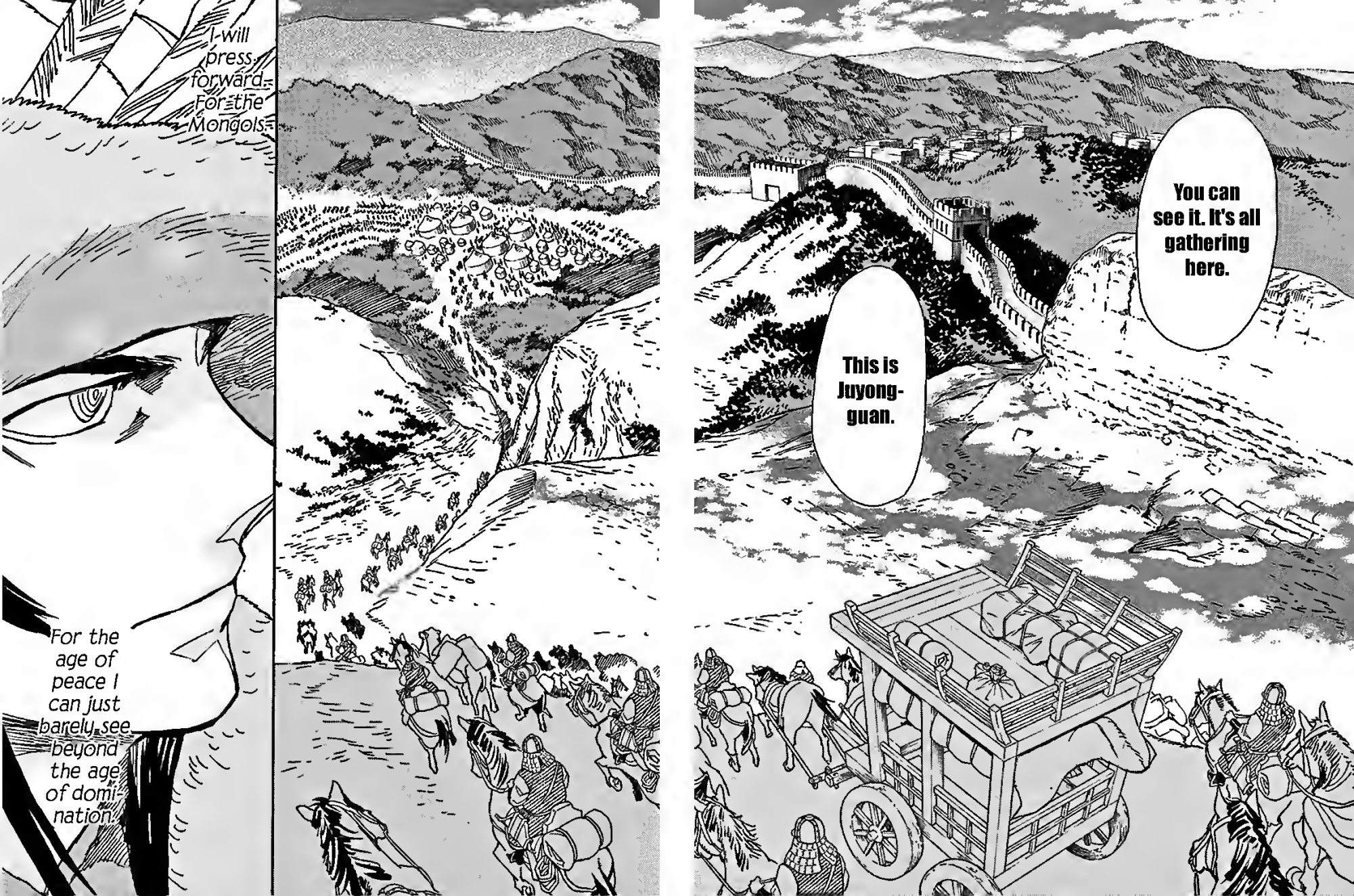
...is all this your fault...?

We're square. Don't push me any more.
Come look at this. You actually cut me a little.
... Yu-rui.



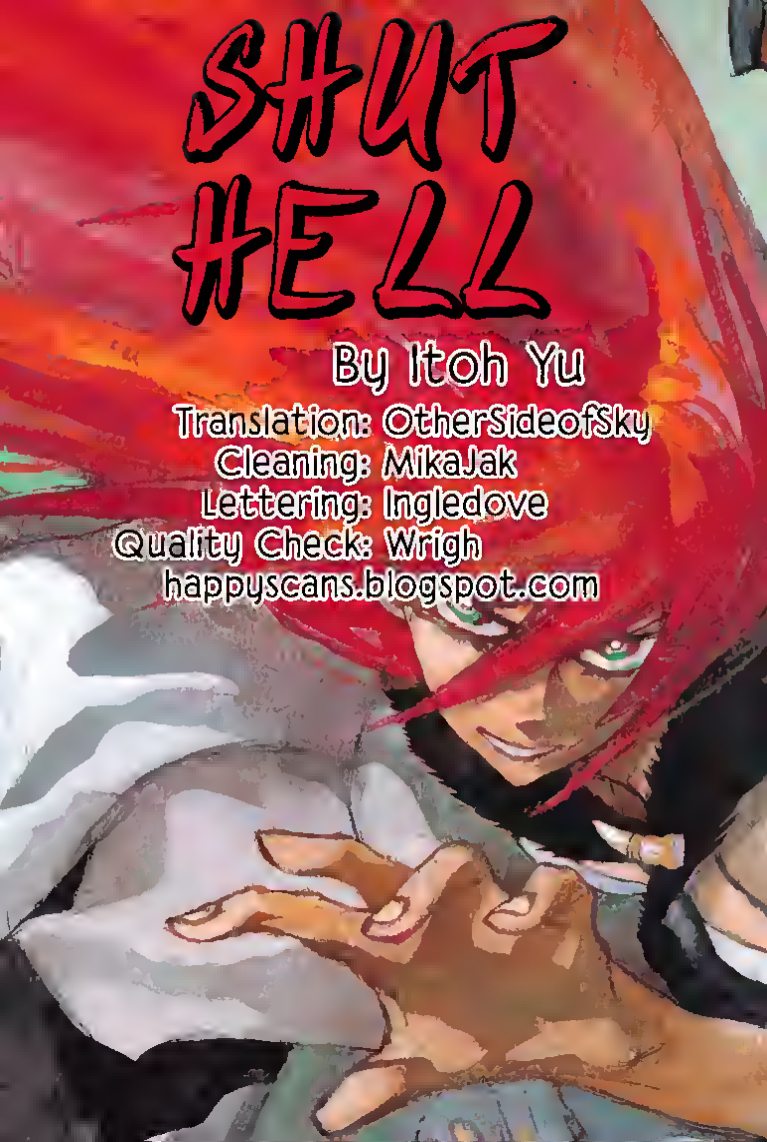
Come, this is Jin's last line of defense.
Beyond it lies the capital, Zhongdu.
You call a wallop so hard it knocked me out "square"...?
He's still not going to take away my sword?

If we can eat our way through it, the Jin are dead.
...The Mongol forces are gathering...
!!!

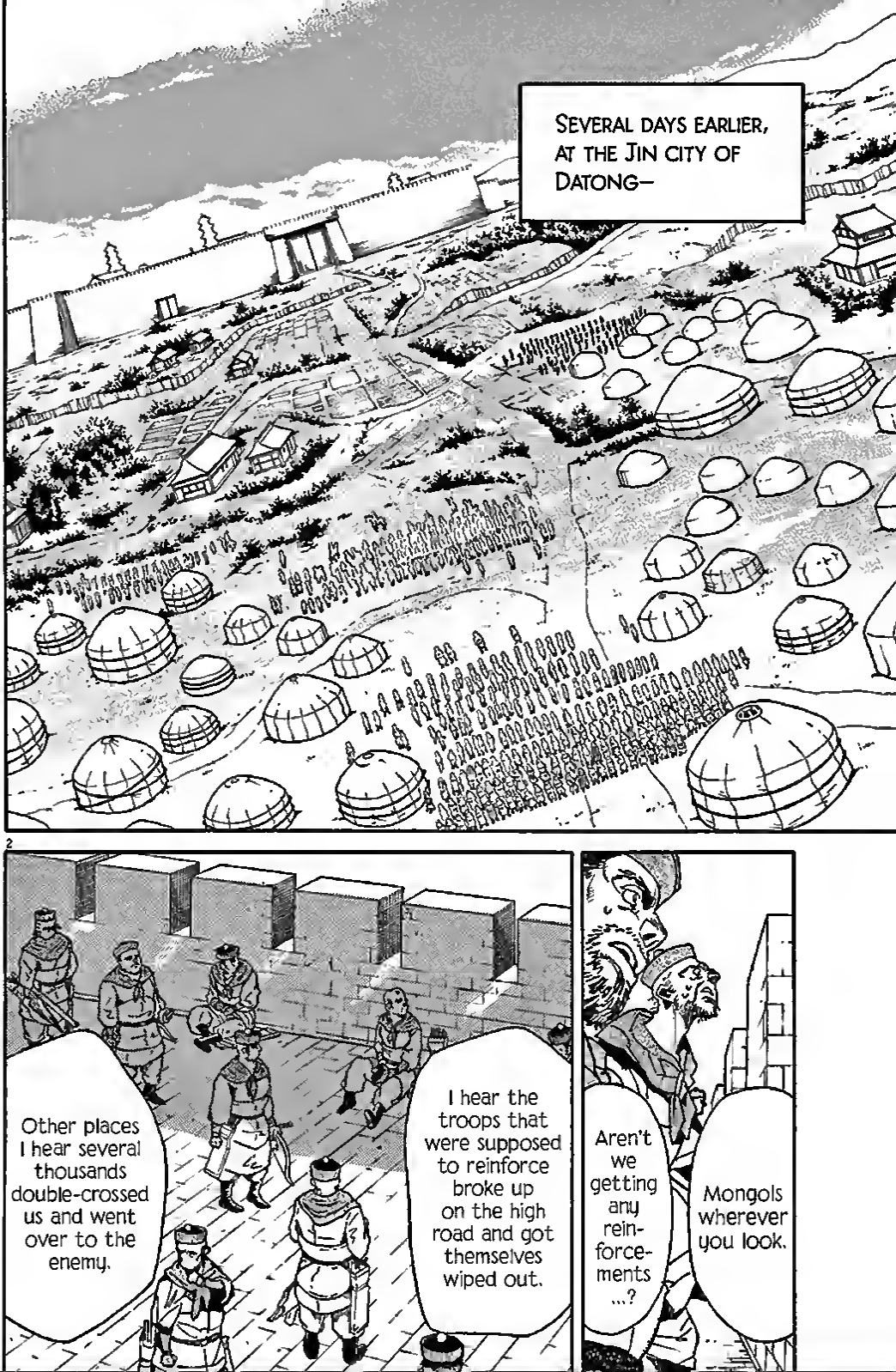

I will press forward. For the Mongols.
For the age of peace I can just barely see beyond the age of domination.
This is Juyong-guan.
You can see it. It's all gathering here.

There must always be a flawless Great Khan at the head of the Mongols.
...Yurul.
Before anyone comes to know of it...
You are tied to the Mongols' future.

the Mongols must assign the blemish to oblivion.
Here, at Juyong-guan.
Along with me.

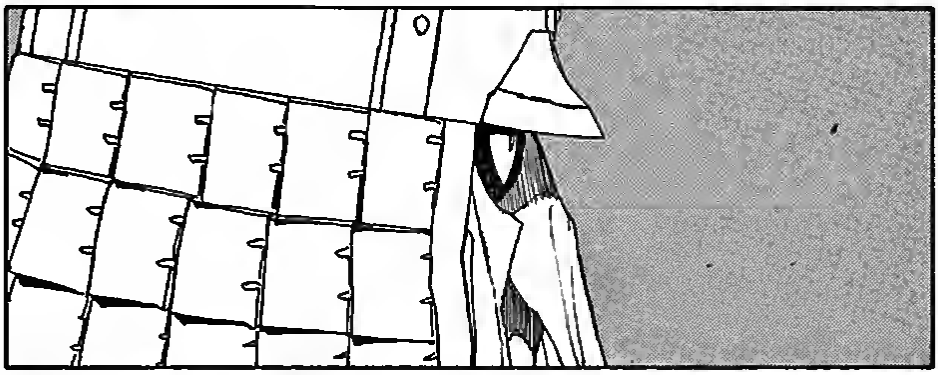

SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check: Wrigh
happyscans.blogspot.com

[Chapter LIX] He and I

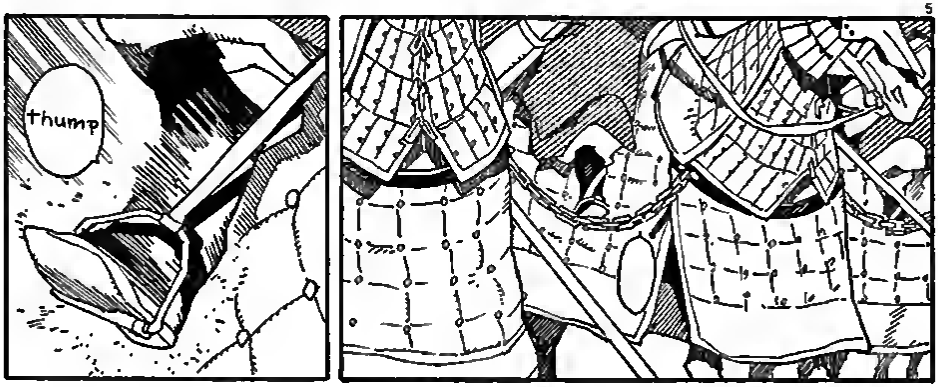

SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER, AT THE JIN CITY OF DATONG—
2
Other places I hear several thousands double-crossed us and went over to the enemy.
I hear the troops that were supposed to reinforce broke up on the high road and got themselves wiped out.
Aren't we getting any reinforcements...?
Mongols wherever you look.

We're the ones who bear the brunt of it. I'd welcome fewer mouths to feed.
Hey.
...Canniba-lism and starvation have begun to rear their heads in the town...
We're almost out of food and water.
Those are our defense forces. Are they going to run!? Or to launch themselves on the foe?
Either way, we'll be left behind here.
What is it?
Co... come with me!
3

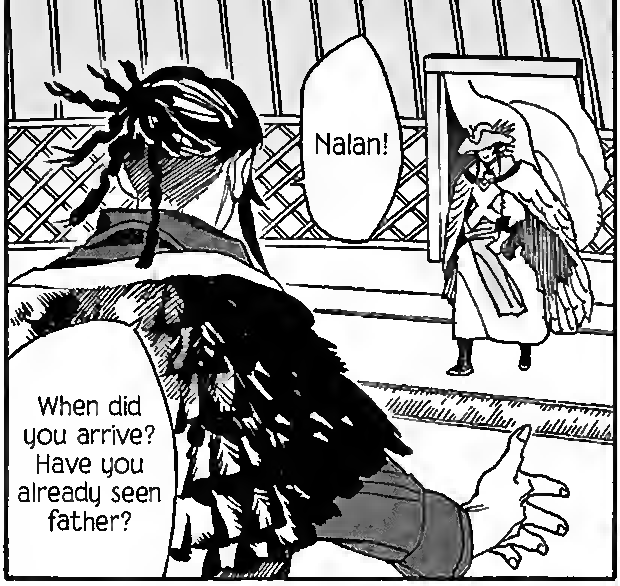
Survive!
Go!
Run, run!
Scat-ter!

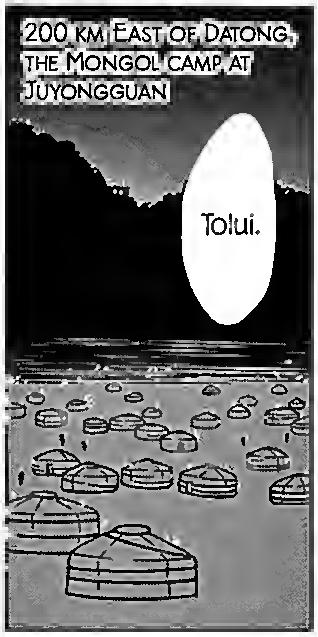


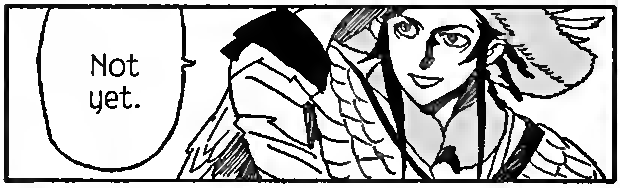
5



It wasn't here, either.
Datong, then?


Nalan!
When did you arrive? Have you already seen father?


200 KM EAST OF DATONG, THE MONGOL CAMP AT JUYONGGUAN
Tolui.

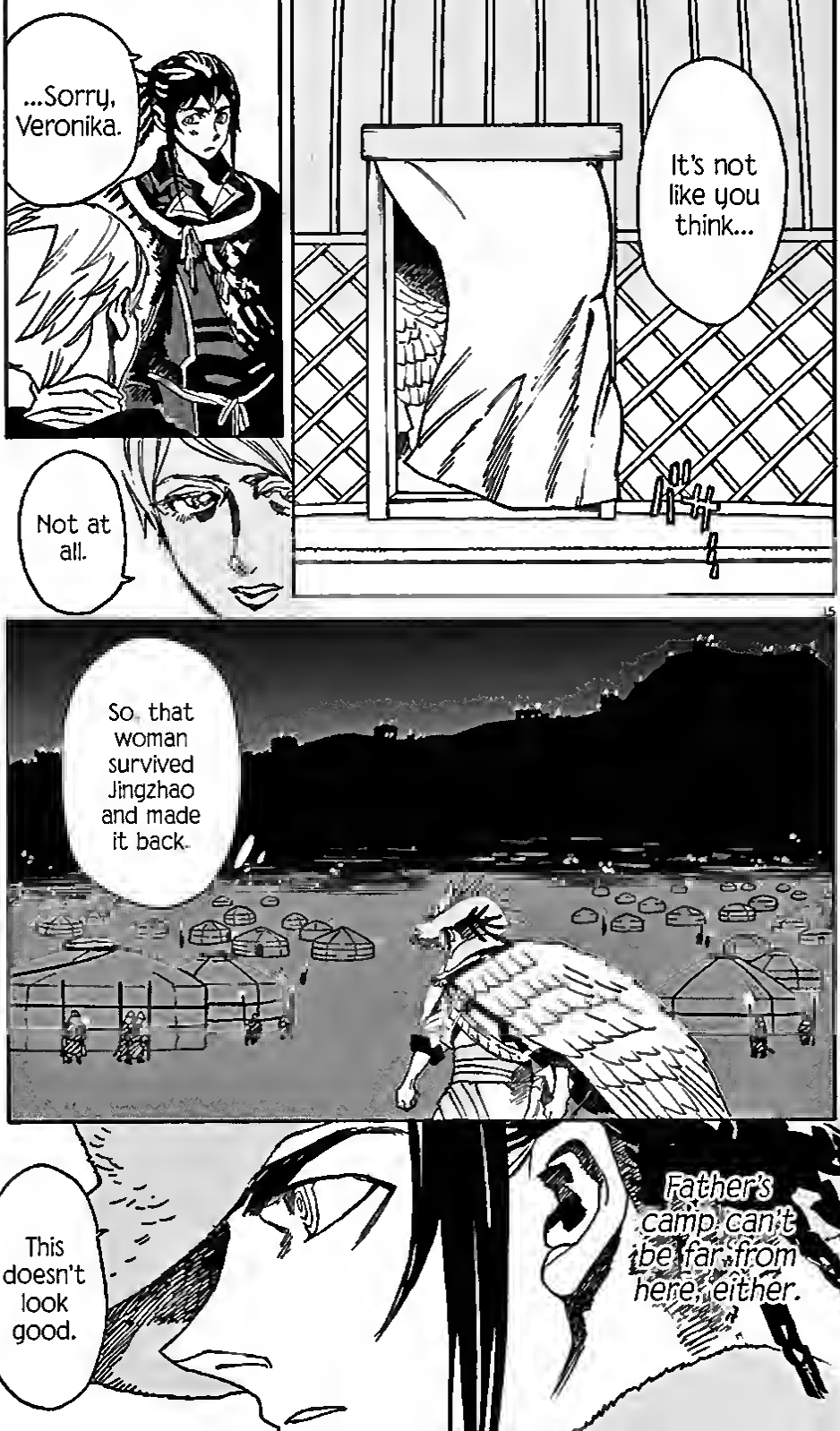

Not yet.

I wanted to see you first.

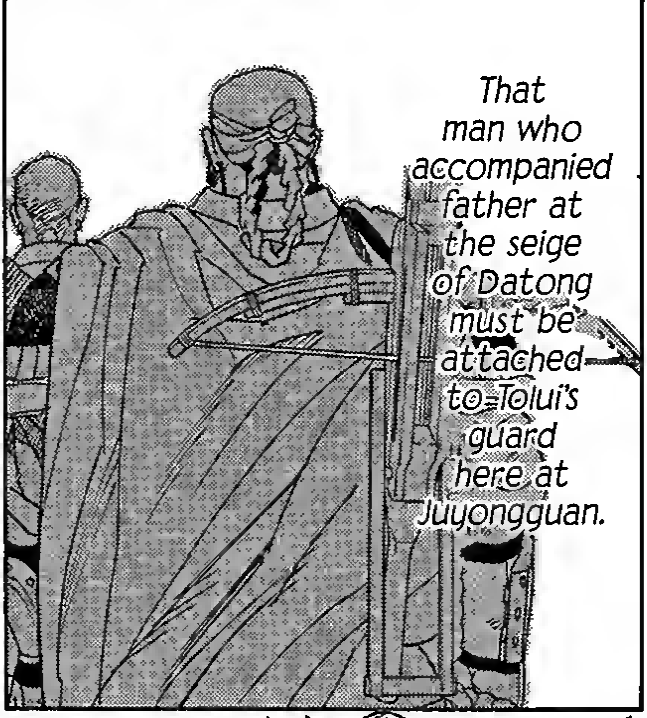
13
Oh-ho...
You didn't run into trouble on the way?
No, thanks to this tablet, Veronika.
Any who disobeys, whosoever they may be, will be executed. By command of the Great Khan.

Well...
I can't tell you how pleased I am that you're safe.
You too.

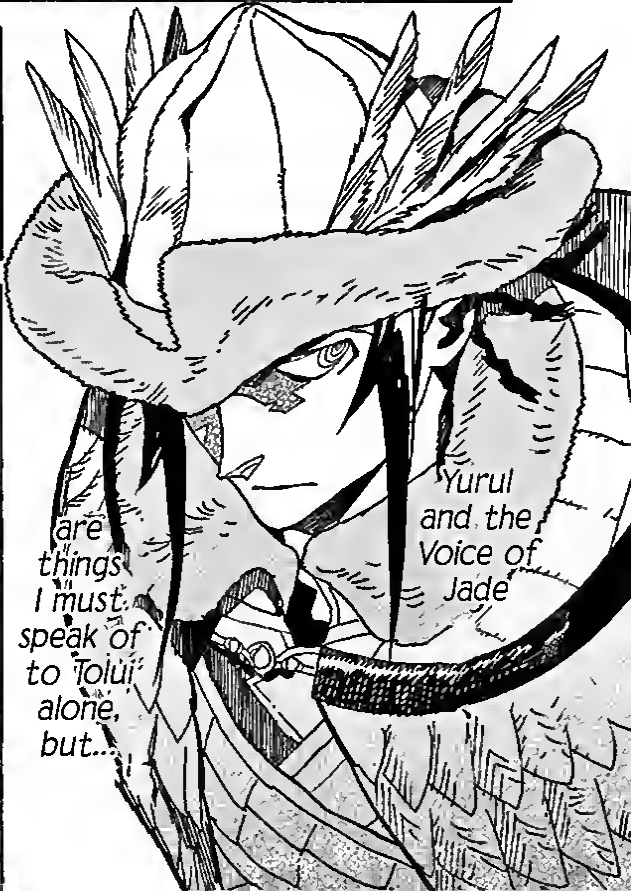
I see you were in the middle of something.
I'll come back another time.
Don't tease me, Nalan.
Veronika just came to pay her respects like you. With father's permission.

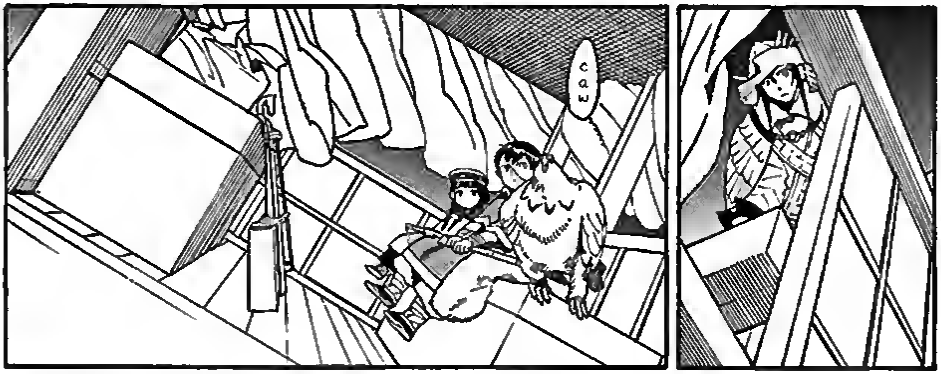

...Sorry, Veronika.
It's not like you think...
Not at all.
15
So that woman survived Jingzhao and made it back.
This doesn't look good.
Father's camp can't be far from here, either.

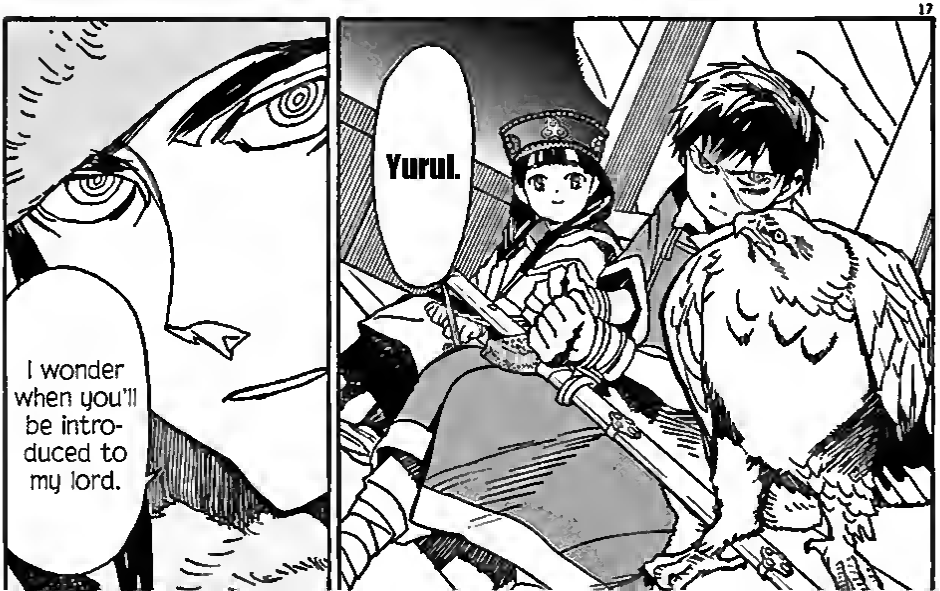
He won't seek to distinguish himself, and he won't leave Tolui's side for a moment.
Those men of the old guard are almost too loyal.

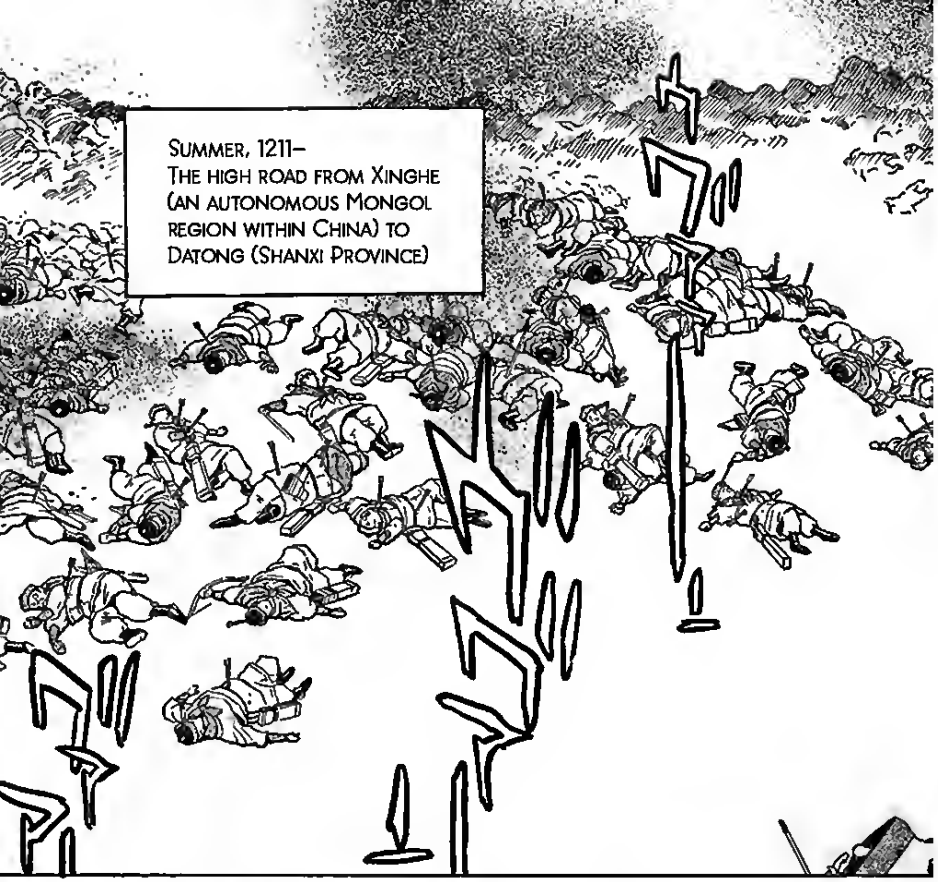

That man who accompanied father at the seige of Datong must be attached to Tolui's guard here at Juyongguan.

Pat
Pat


Yurul and the Voice of Jade
are things I must speak of to Tolui alone, but...


CAW


I wonder when you'll be introduced to my lord.
Yurul.

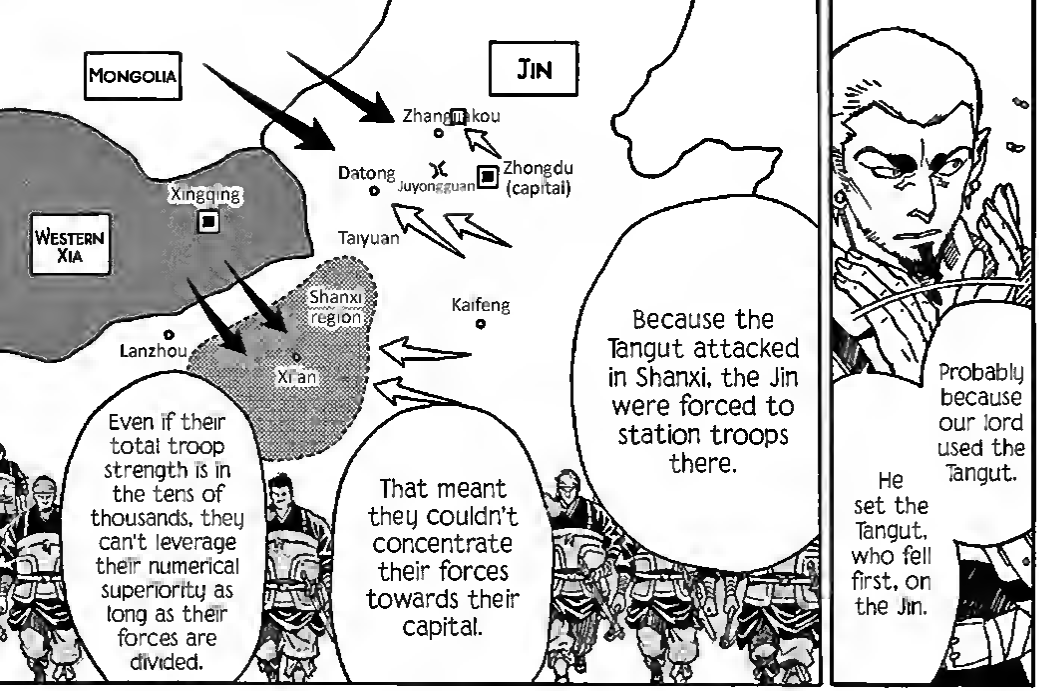

SUMMER, 1211–
THE HIGH ROAD FROM XINGHE (AN AUTONOMOUS MONGOL REGION WITHIN CHINA) TO DATONG (SHANXI PROVINCE)

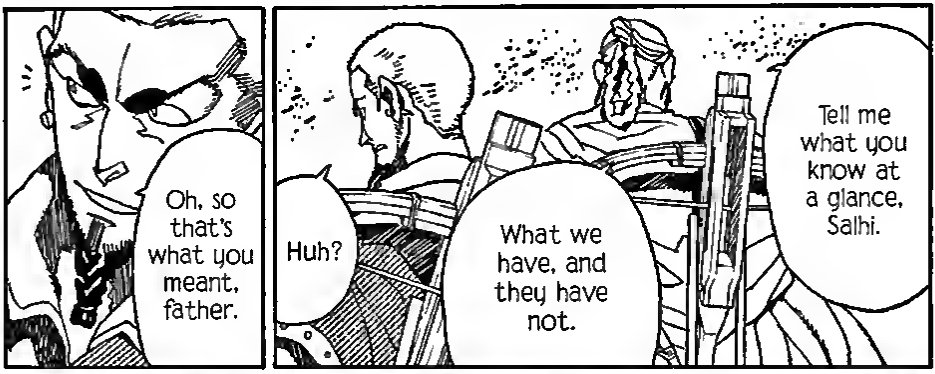
Salhi.

Really, father, this China is certainly a hot place.
And it stinks, too.

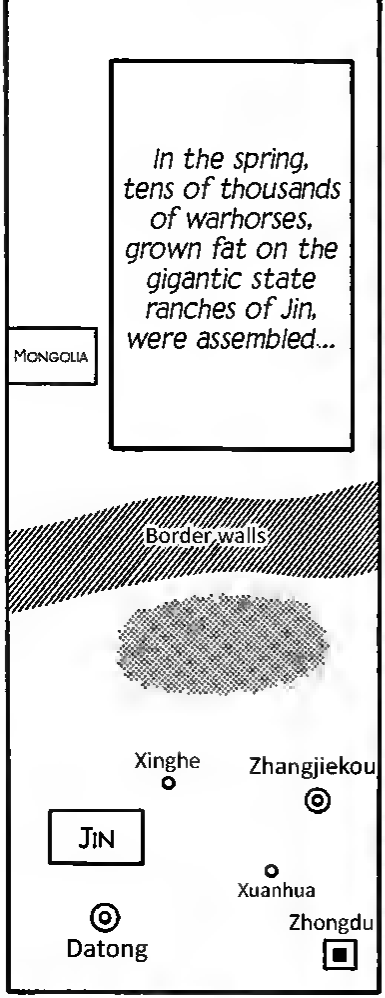
bzzz
bzzz

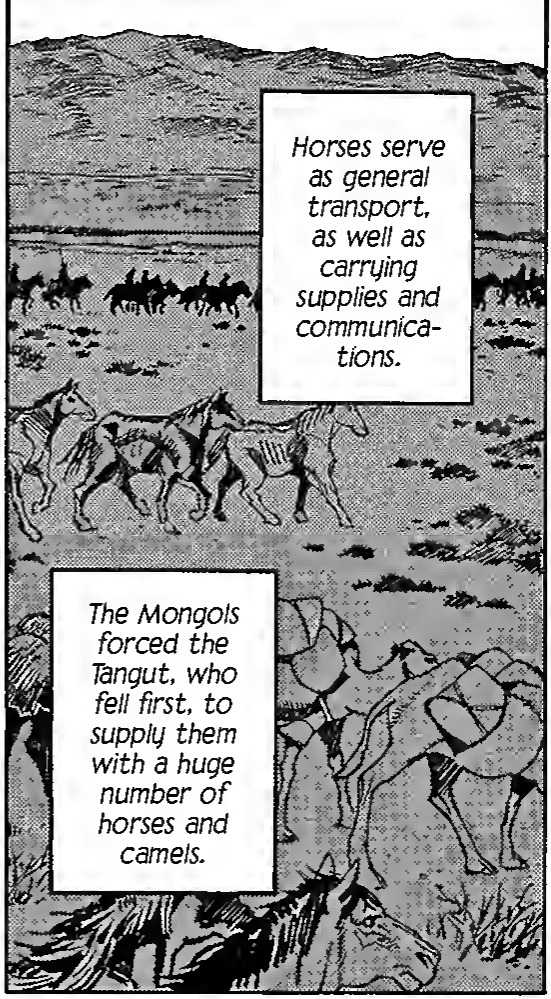
why they were so easily defeated?
Can you tell at a glance
SHOLGA, MONGOL GENERAL

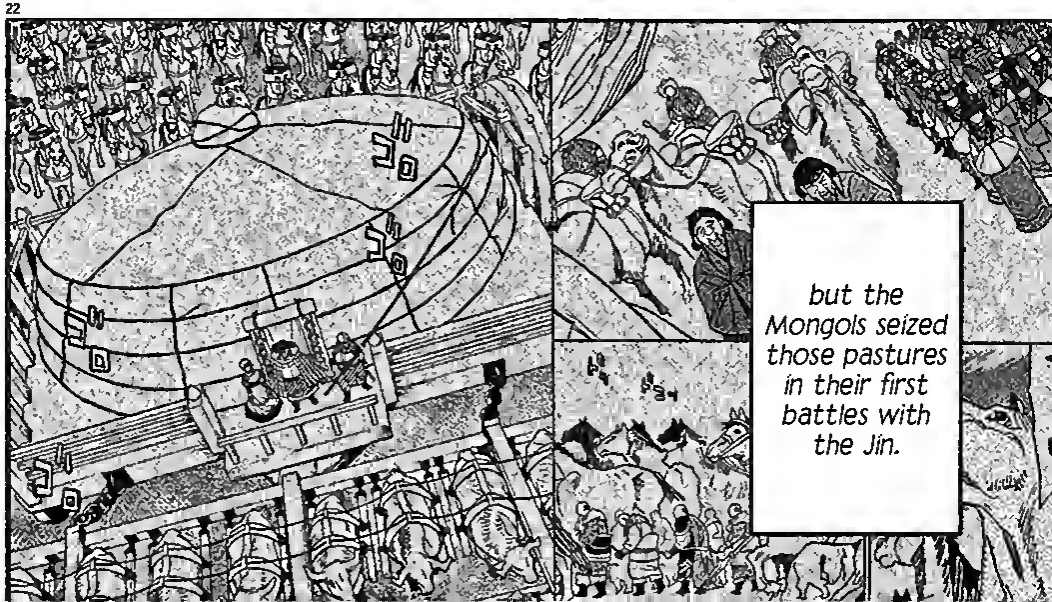

Mongolia
Jin
Zhangjiakou
Datong
Juyongguan
Zhongdu (capital)
Xingqing
Western Xia
Taiyuan
Shanxi region
Kaifeng
Lanzhou
Xi'an
Even if their total troop strength is in the tens of thousands, they can't leverage their numerical superiority as long as their forces are divided.
That meant they couldn't concentrate their forces towards their capital.
Because the Tangut attacked in Shanxi, the Jin were forced to station troops there.
He set the Tangut, who fell first, on the Jin.
Probably because our lord used the Tangut.

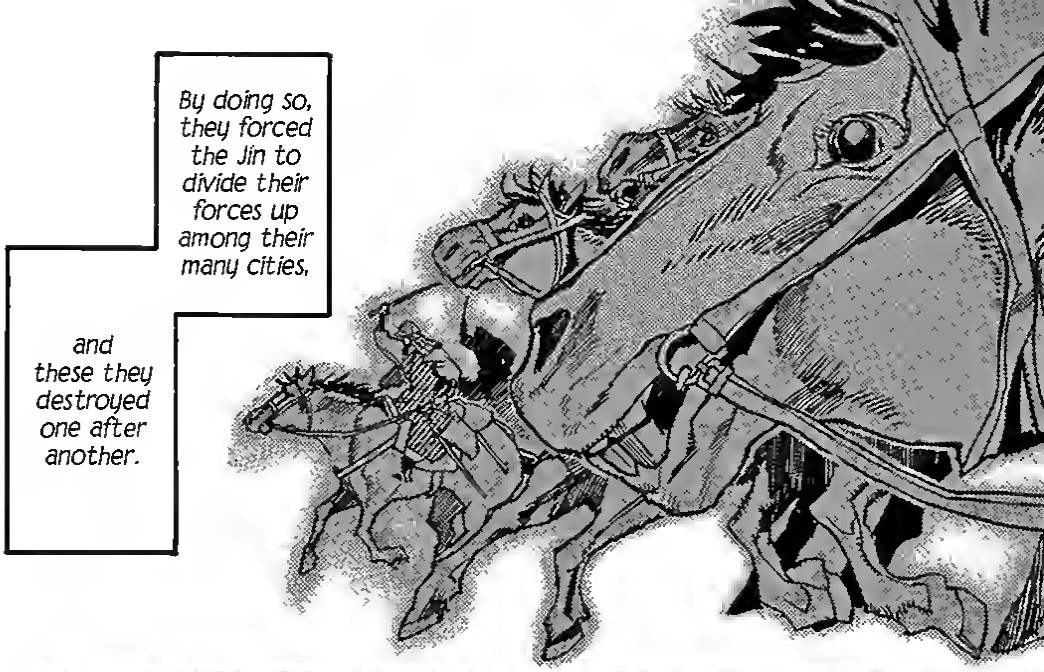

Oh, so that's what you meant, father.
Huh?
What we have, and they have not.
Tell me what you know at a glance, Salhi.

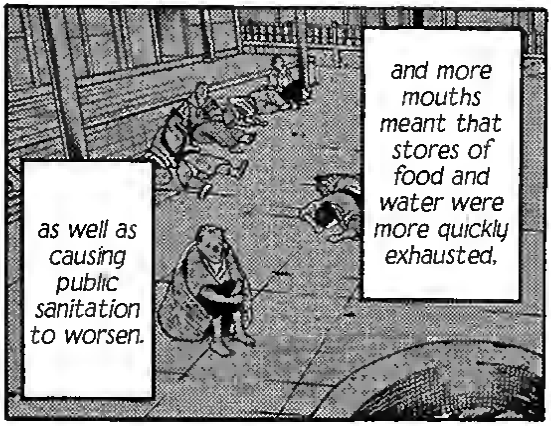
The Jin have barely any horses left.

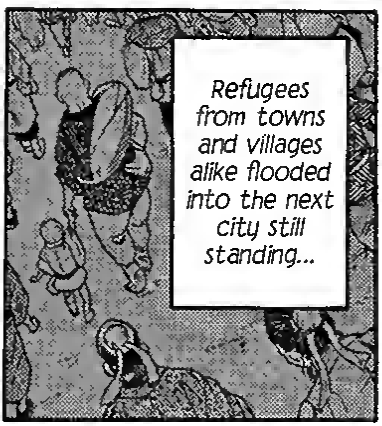

In the spring, tens of thousands of warhorses, grown fat on the gigantic state ranches of Jin, were assembled...
MONGOLIA
Border walls
Xinghe
Zhangjiekou
JIN
Xuanhua
Zhongdu
Datong


Horses serve as general transport, as well as carrying supplies and communications.
The Mongols forced the Tangut, who fell first, to supply them with a huge number of horses and camels.

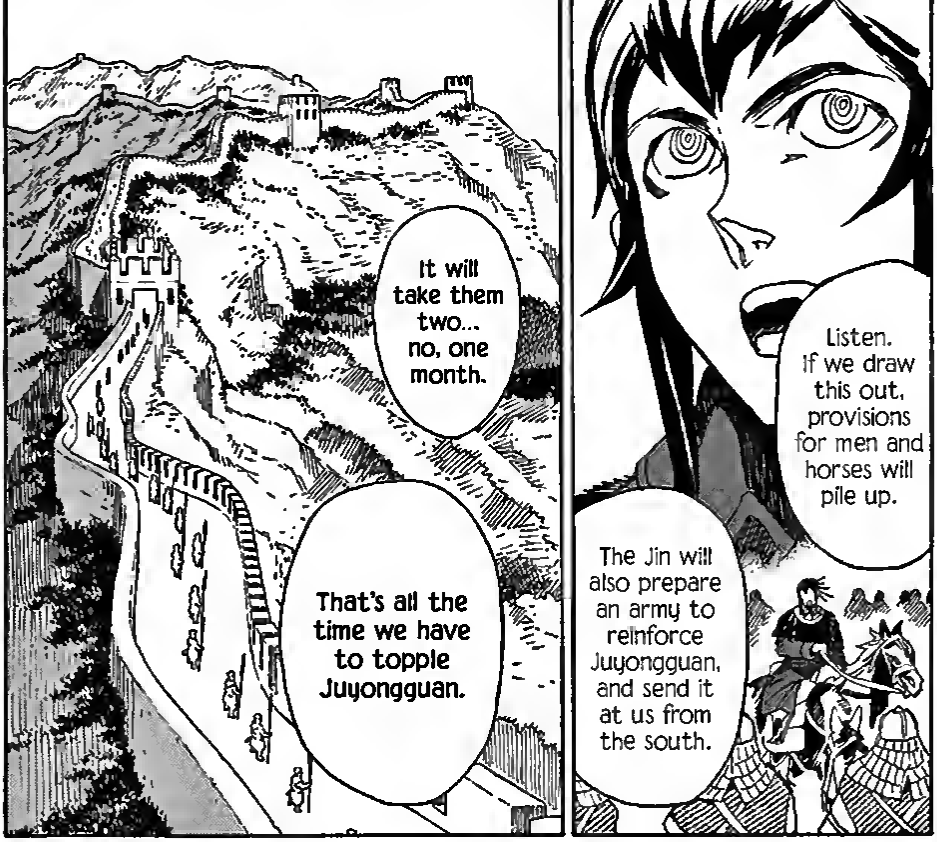

but the Mongols seized those pastures in their first battles with the Jin.


By doing so, they forced the Jin to divide their forces up among their many cities,
and these they destroyed one after another.


and more mouths meant that stores of food and water were more quickly exhausted,
as well as causing public sanitation to worsen.


Refugees from towns and villages alike flooded into the next city still standing...

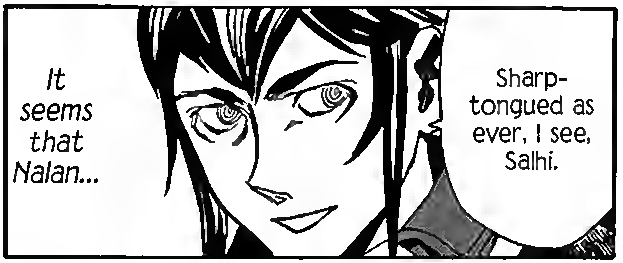
Within and without the closed city gates,
the people of Jin were locked in battle with the Mongols starvation, and disease...


It will take them two... no, one month.
That's all the time we have to topple Juyongguan.
Listen. If we draw this out, provisions for men and horses will pile up.
The Jin will also prepare an army to reinforce Juyongguan, and send it at us from the south.

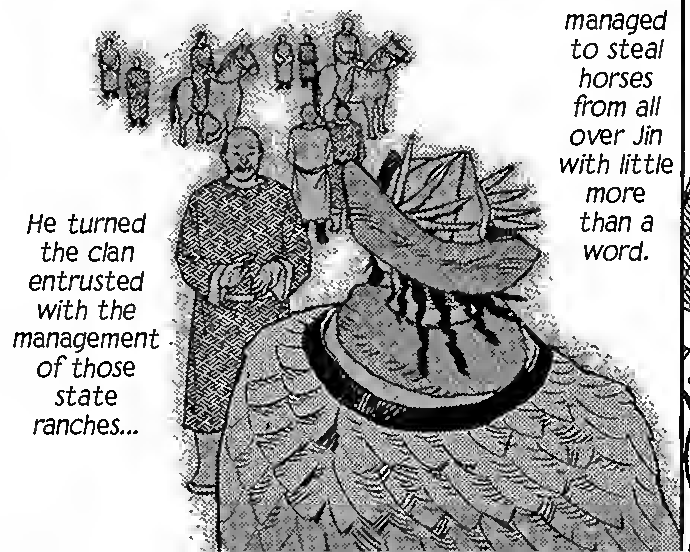
24

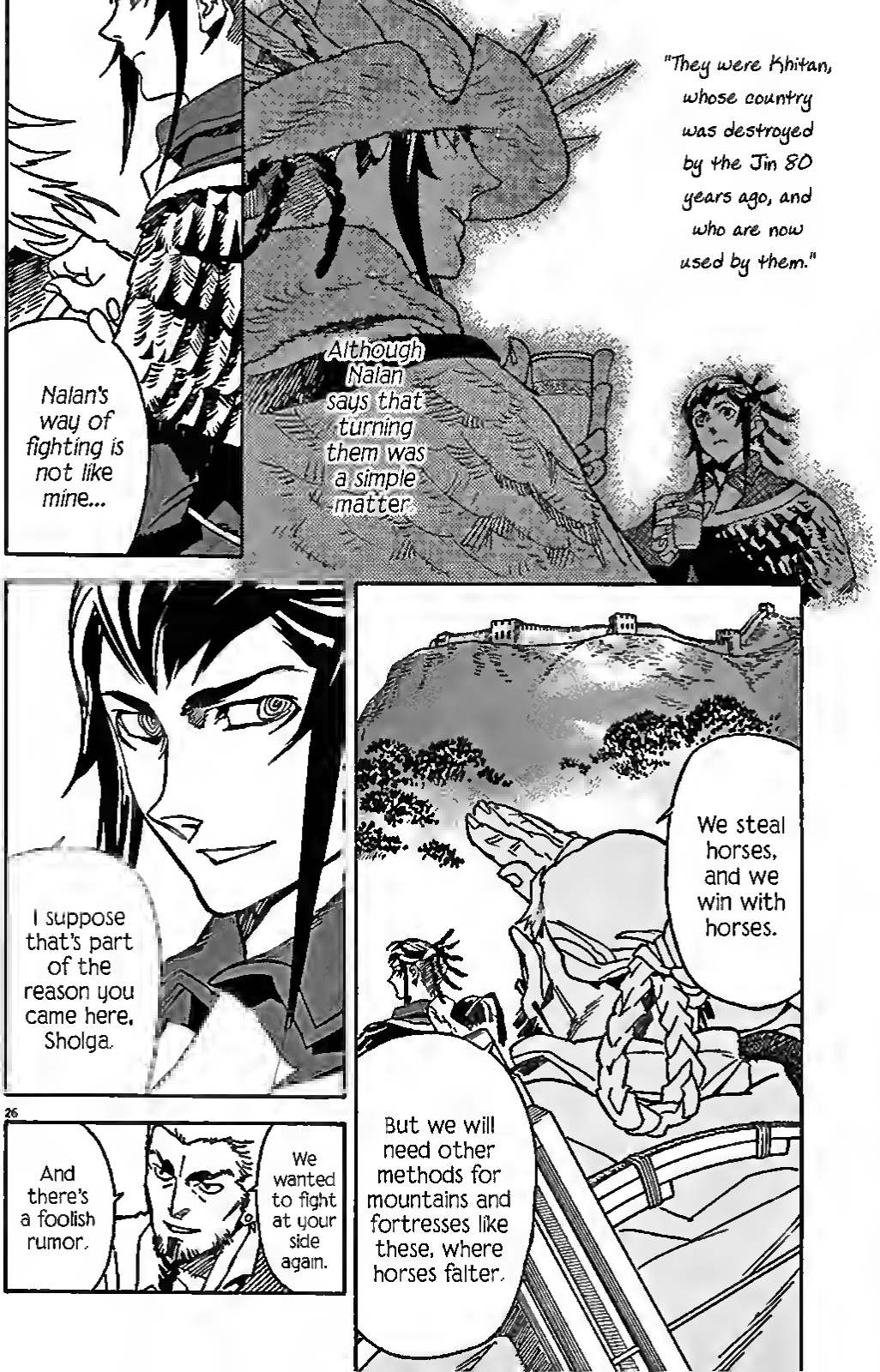
About to begin already, Lord Tolui?

Sholga! Salhi!
You've arrived from Datong, then.


It seems that Nalan...
Sharp-tongued as ever, I see, Salhi.

Whatever battlefield one visits, the fruits of the young lord's horse thieving are on the rise.

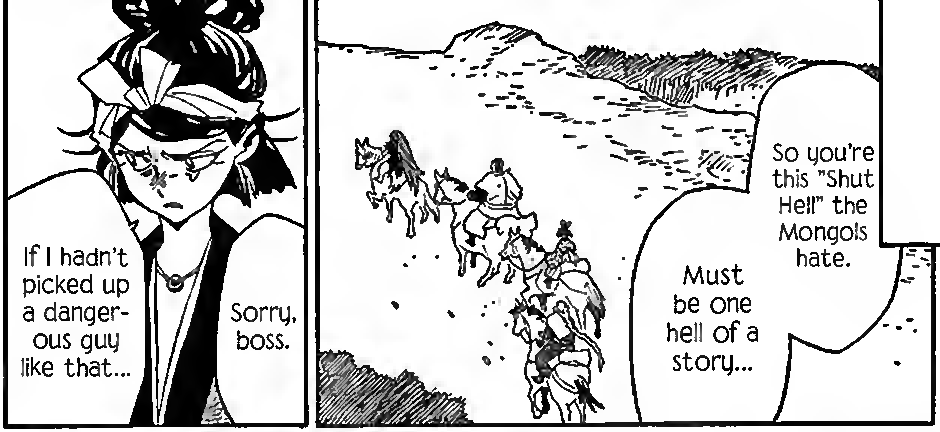

He turned the clan entrusted with the management of those state ranches...
managed to steal horses from all over Jin with little more than a word.


Nalan's way of fighting is not like mine...
Although Nalan says that turning them was a simple matter,
"They were Khitan, whose country was destroyed by the Jin 80 years ago, and who are now used by them."
I suppose that's part of the reason you came here, Sholga.
We steal horses, and we win with horses.
But we will need other methods for mountains and fortresses like these, where horses falter.
And there's a foolish rumor.
We wanted to fight at your side again.

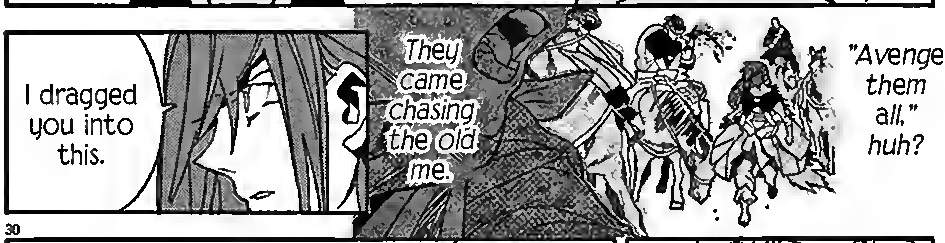
A rumor of a Tangut ghost who goes about killing us Mongols, divine soldiers of our lord...
I think they call it "Shut Hell."
カリンヤ
As for that bandit...
Speak only of what you've seen, Salhi.

we will kill him.
whether it takes one shot or two,

I'll size him up at a glance,
and then decide.
29


If I hadn't picked up a dangerous guy like that...
Sorry, boss.
So you're this "Shut Hell" the Mongols hate.
Must be one hell of a story...

I don't blame you. Understand?
your wanting to be kind to someone weak and in need.
Xin, I value


I dragged you into this.
They came chasing the old me.
"Avenge them all," huh?

He's your treasure. There's no doubt in my mind about that.
...I saw you when your bleeding wouldn't stop, crawling on the ground trying to chase after that kid.
I wasn't dragged into this; I chose to get involved.
After all I've been through, young lady, I want you to understand something.

Tell me that's how it is. I'll make that...
my reason for losing a hand.
If we throw away a treasure like that when you've got your hands full just putting food on the table, just surviving,
then we're no different from the grass growing over there that the cows and horses piss on.
...Anyone can easily die easily for no reason.

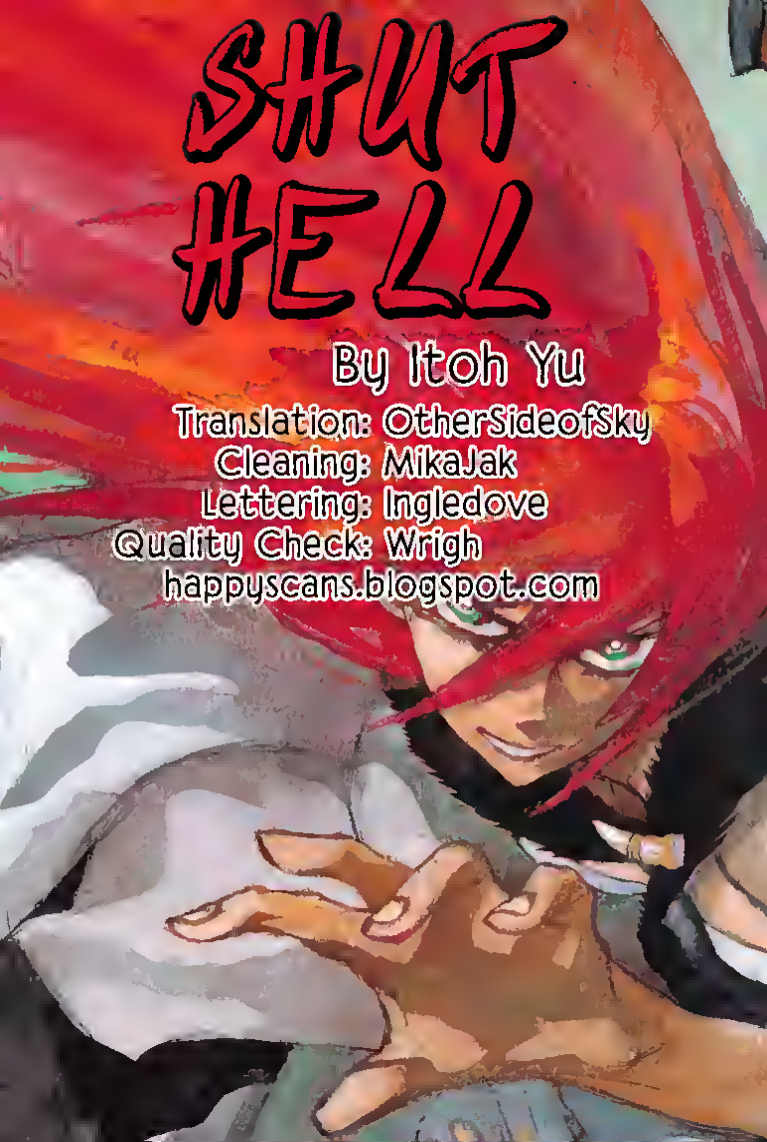
I've killed too.
I even tried to kill him.
But he brought me back to life.

He is
my life.

32

This is as far as we go.

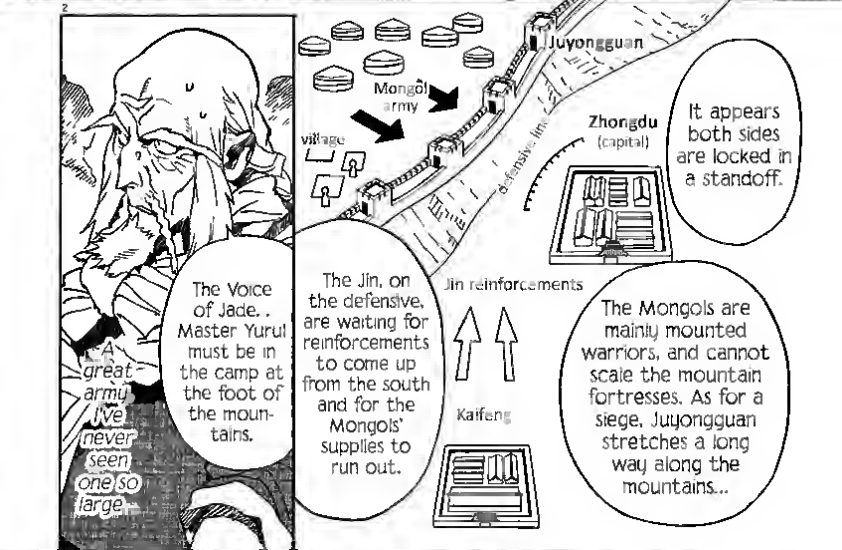
Juyongguan's just a hop, skip and a jump from this relay station.


SHUT HELL
By Itoh Yu
Translation: OtherSideofSky
Cleaning: MikaJak
Lettering: Ingledove
Quality Check: Wrigh
happyscans.blogspot.com

[Chapter LX]
The Storm

That's the fortress that protects Jin's capital... Juyongguan.
It's quiet. Aren't the Mongols on the move yet?
Where is Yurui...?

2


A great army. I've never seen one so large.
The Voice of Jade.. Master Yurui must be in the camp at the foot of the mountains.
Juyongguan
Mongol army
village
Zhongdu (capital)
defensive line
It appears both sides are locked in a standoff.
The Jin, on the defensive, are waiting for reinforcements to come up from the south and for the Mongols' supplies to run out.
Jin reinforcements
Kaifeng
The Mongols are mainly mounted warriors, and cannot scale the mountain fortresses. As for a siege, Juyongguan stretches a long way along the mountains...

3
Shut Hell!
But among that great army, how will you–
You hold onto that bundle. If we're not careful, we could lose the remaining half of the Voice of Jade too.
I'll go look for him, Boldu.

Huh...?
Wa ahh h!
Ee ek kk!

"Shut Hell"...
That's the Mongol deserter we met earlier!

Aaah!
Waa hh!
Rrgh!

Rry aah hh!
ヒ…
?

cough
splat
...You bas-tard.
Uh
A poison hand...!!
You stink.

What will rotting your own flesh get you?
But...
He wrapped his hand up too tight and for too long, clutching a thing coated in poison.
That's the trick he used then.
Just like you did so much you got sick of it!
I'll listen to the sound of your heart when you die!

I see.
So I've made another Shut Hell.
"Won't it just repeat ...?"
Repe-tition, huh.
I guess he did tell me back then.
Yurui.

What are you
mum-bling about !?

ドルン
ヘーナ
Rrrgh!
Aahh!
ドサッ
ナニ

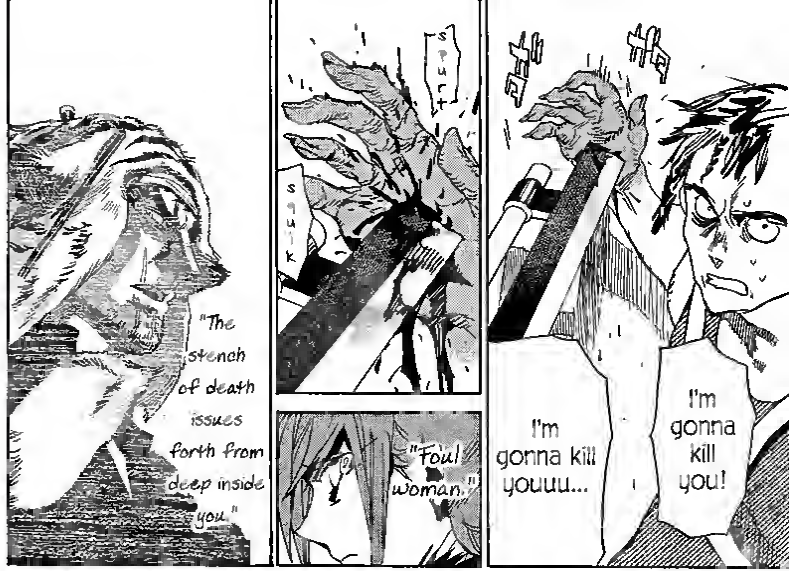
You've got nothing left right...?
No one to cry when you made your own body rot.
No comrades.
Not even anyone to remember you,
or to pursue your killer...?

If I slit your throat, that'll end it, right...?
So I should just get rid of you and forget...?
That will stop the cycle...?

You think I'll let you forget?
I... We curse you!
Be cursed, Shut Hell...!!

Then keep going

.....
If you've become Shut Hell...
until the part where you're saved.


"The stench of death issues forth from deep inside you."
SLIK
spurt
"Foul woman."
I'm gonna kill youuu...
I'm gonna kill you!

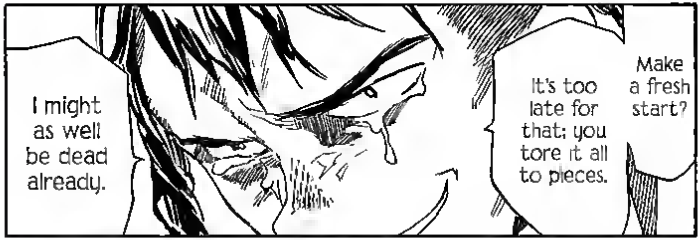
meet someone.
You probably don't have much time with that hand, but...

Meet someone who will teach you something besides dying and killing.
How dare you say those words with that mouth...!
How ...

Come on!
If... If you want to act like you're taking pity on me, then die right here!
Just die!
Urrgh
No.
Meet someone.
...If you won't, then kill me right here.

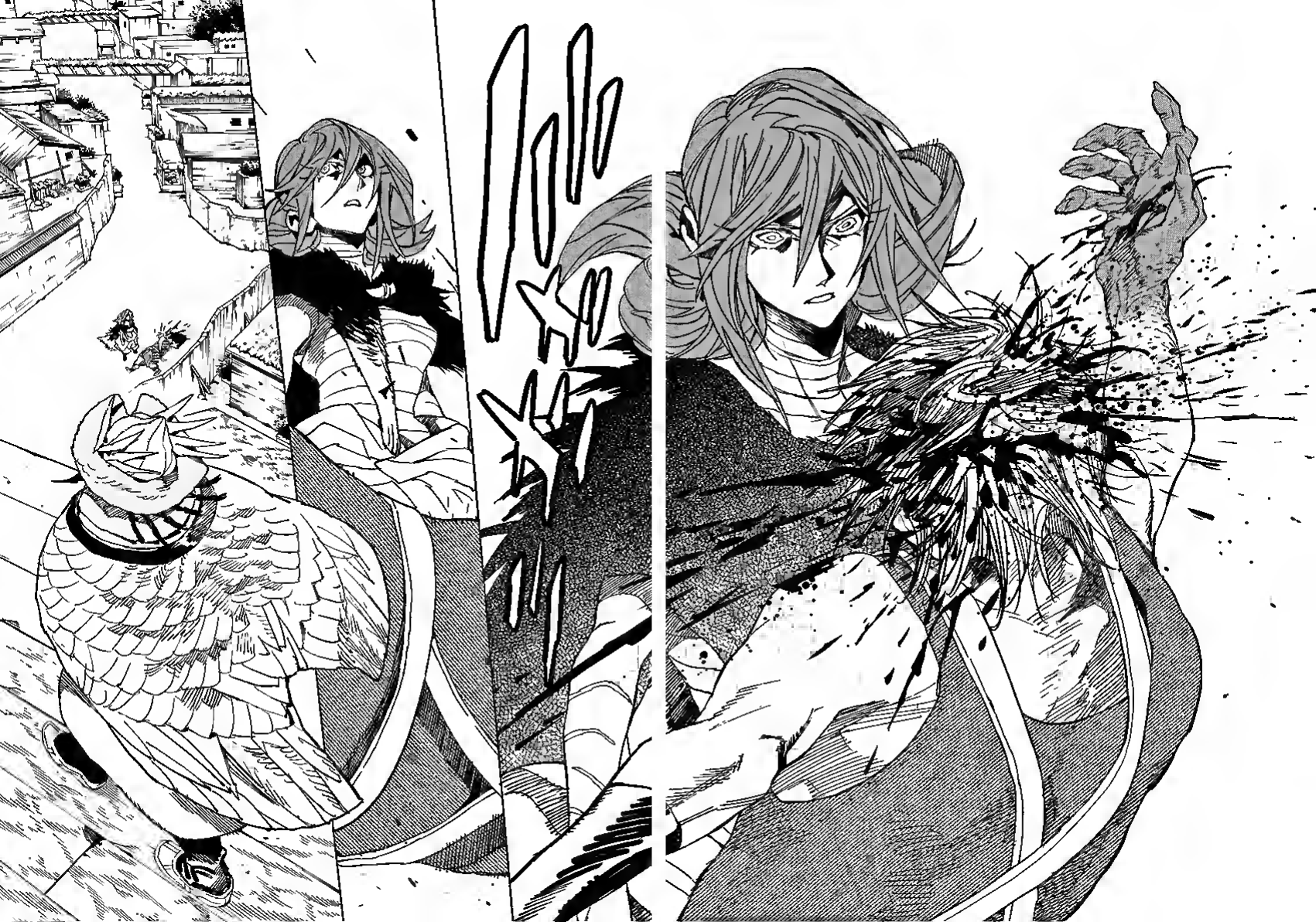
...A meeting that will let you make a fresh start at life.

I've washed up here because I can't forget people who will never come back.
...What'll it matter if I meet someone now?


I might as well be dead already.
It's too late for that; you tore it all to pieces.
Make a fresh start?

I believe so.
You think someone like you can set your life straight and make a fresh start!?
How can you say that, when you're the one who did it – a woman who shouldn't even be alive?

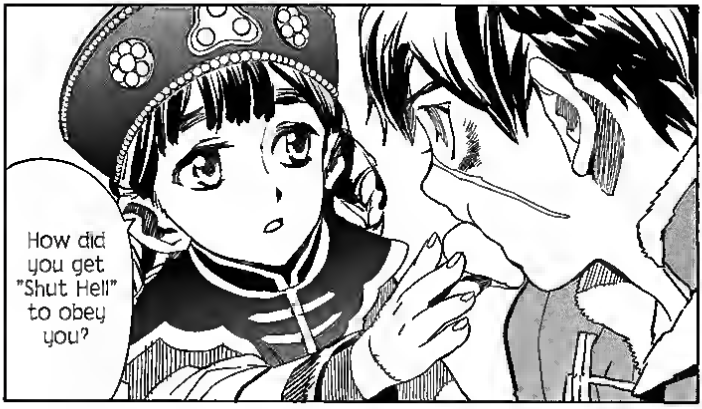
Kill me!



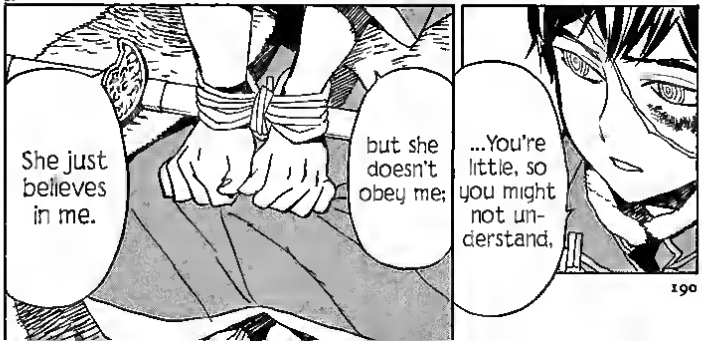
Hey there.
I'm surprised to see you looking so healthy.

He's fine now.
You really understand animals, don't you?
I don't understand humans very well. They won't sleep even when I sing to them.
...She looked like a dog at first.

A dog?
That "Shut Hell" who was pressed right up against you in Jingzhao.
Was it the tail...?


How did you get "Shut Hell" to obey you?

25


...You're little, so you might not understand,
but she doesn't obey me;
She just believes in me.

Shut Hell believes in me,
and I believe in her, and we both know it.
That helps us.
Even when we're apart.
...I'm sure she's coming closer.
You just said you don't understand humans.
Why?

"Shut Hell" loves you, Yurul.

Is...
I can tell.

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Nalan... Well,
it looked like he treats Melumi a bit roughly...
...Melumi.
Do you love Nalan?
Could he be an idiot?
Always speaking rudely of her
I've told her that I like her, but I've never gotten an answer!!
Is that so ...!!!

"But when you grow up, Melum, it will be in an age as gentle as a soft breeze."
"You'll be a maiden in full bloom."
"The night I met you a storm was blowing."
Lord Nalan told me... that a kind era is close at hand.
I believe in Lord Nalan.
...When that time comes, spare me a glance.
Only ...
Lord Nalan told me it will all be over soon...

I told you Yurul doesn't need you anymore...
but you've gone from unnecessary to actively dangerous.
Men like that one will keep coming out of your past one after another.
And Yurul?
He's in good health.
Where is he?
...
Were you listening to me?
I told you you won't do my brother any good.

But
I suppose I could let you see Yurul if you hand over the other half of the Voice of Jade.
You've got it with you nearby, right?
The place to hand it over–

To be continued in [Shut Hell] Volume 10...

【手伝ってくれた人々】
井口文枝
大川亜由美
椿 克彦
前嶋重機
松山由希
渡邉忠司

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松井 太(弘前大学人文学部教授)
毛利英介(京都大学文学部非常勤講師)

【装 幀】
孝橋淳二

Poison arrows... was it?
Poison that kills without pain is a bit pricey It is in short supply, after all
If it's poison that makes them suffer you want, you won't get better than that

We want the one that'll make her suffer, right, Tsohrai?
The one that'll kill her the most cruelly
Stand aside, zess.

Oh my, if it isn't a child.
Mongol men are adults once they reach 13.
Well, Mr. soldier?
They didn't look like proper soldiers to me
They're hunting someone out of hate... or should I say a grudge.

You look like you can guess who, Alfaid.
The Mongol-killing bandit, "Shut Hell."
I'd like to meet them too
Welcome to the Afterlife
Hey
Long time no see. ☆
Thinking back on that was the first time I've made a serious face in ages. Kind of embarrassing.
Ha ha ha!
compare
Yay!
Hey You died then?
If you want to call your dad over, you e-
Oh, my real dad!
By the way, zess, I won't mind.
Mind what, Tsohrai?
Heh.

シュトーベル

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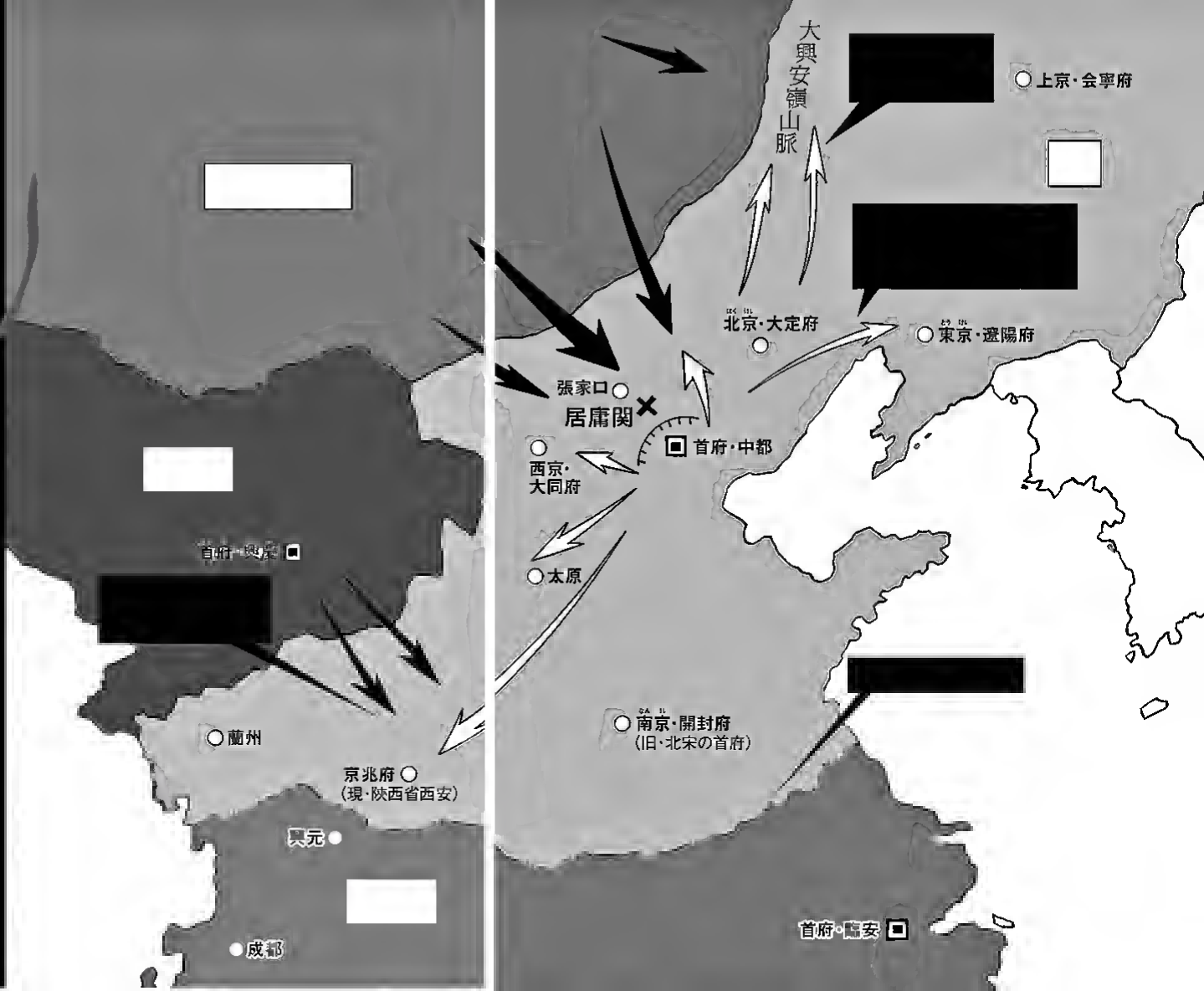
金国軍約30万、蒙古軍約10万。兵力ではるかに上回る金国軍であったが、いくつかの要因により兵力を分断せざるを得ず、苦戦していた。



シュトヘル9

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